



SATURDAY MAY 19 1990



30p

Prunskiene seeks intermediary

Soviet troops sent to Latvia and Estonia

By Mary Dejevsky in Moscow and Our Foreign Staff

SPECIAL troops are being sent to the restive Baltic republics of Estonia and Latvia to keep order after riots in their capitals, Tass said last night.

Their deployment to reinforce local garrisons came as Soviet soldiers were reported to have shot dead a youth trying to enter a military compound in the third-rebel Baltic republic of Lithuania. Tension there persisted in spite of President Gorbachov's declaration yesterday that the Kremlin was prepared to examine any possibility to resolve its differences with Lithuania, provided the Soviet constitutional process was observed.

Mr Gorbachov spent two hours with Mrs Kazimiera Prunskiene, the Lithuanian Prime Minister on Thursday, a meeting Mrs Prunskiene described as a big step forward

in that it took place at all. In an interview with *The Times* yesterday, she said the Kremlin had departed from its previous official position in calling only for the "temporary suspension" of the republic's March 11 declaration of independence and not its abrogation. But she added: "I still have very many doubts about Soviet intentions of moving towards resolution of the Lithuanian problem."

Lithuanian representatives in Moscow are actively seeking a third-party guarantor to oversee the transition to independence. They fear that if the elected parliament agreed to suspend its independence declaration, it might be summarily abolished. Mrs Prunskiene yesterday visited the British, Canadian and Norwegian embassies in Moscow, and one of the reasons for those calls appears to have been the quest to find an intermediary to make sure the Soviet Union kept any undertakings it gave about Lithuanian independence.

Mrs Prunskiene also met the American Secretary of State, Mr James Baker, who is in Moscow to finalize preparations for the Washington summit on superpower arms talks at the end of the month. Afterwards, he said: "We're very hopeful that a dialogue can begin and we find it very encouraging that Mrs Prunskiene was able to meet with President Gorbachov."

At that meeting, Mrs Prunskiene handed the Soviet leader a document detailing an offer to suspend all legislation proceeding from the declaration of independence for a transitional period, during which the republic's "independence, integrity and the functioning of its mandated authorities" would be guaranteed, and putting forward five specific proposals:

- Talks on co-operation between Lithuania and the Soviet Union to ensure Soviet security, the security of the republic's western border and communications with the Kaliningrad region, which is administered directly from Moscow;
- An attempt to find a compromise between Lithuania's promise to guarantee its citizens the right to perform military service or not and the Soviet need to ensure its strategic interests;
- The need to draw up bilateral agreements on economic and property relations between the republic and the Soviet Union "in such a way as to preserve and increase economic and transport links";
- Talks on the establishment

The shooting incident in Lithuania yesterday came after several complaints of rock-throwing by sniper attacks on Soviet soldiers at military installations. There are suggestions, however, that if Moscow decided to take military action in the republic it might not be able to count on the loyalty of its troops in the Baltic. Increasingly, it is said, they are understanding the depth of feeling in the republic and fear the sort of conflict between Russians and the indigenous people that resulted from Soviet military intervention in Baku.

In addition to flights to Belgium, The Netherlands and Iceland, links with Stavanger in Norway and Edinburgh are also proposed.

Mr Younger, Conservative MP for Ayr, said Emerald Air would provide a significant contribution to Prestwick's future viability and it was hoped that at least two North American carriers would be encouraged to begin operations from the airport as a result.

Emerald Air, based in Belfast, hopes to begin operations in November and proposes a twice-daily service between Prestwick and London City airport.

The votes cast were: Mr David Trimble (UUP) 20,547; Mrs Brid Rodgers (SDLP) 6,698; Ms Sheena Campbell (Sinn Fein) 2,033; The Rev Hugh Ross (Ulster Independence) 1,534; Mr Tom French (Workers Party) 1,083; Mrs Colette Jones (C) 1,038; Dr William Ramsay (Alliance)



Prest: Herr Kohl, right, the West German Chancellor, and Herr de Maizière, the East German Prime Minister, raising a glass in Bonn to the signing yesterday of the accord making the Deutschmark the sole German currency and paving the way to reunification. Report, page 8

Prestwick attracts European airline

By Kerry Gill

A NEW airline is to introduce flights linking Prestwick Airport with several European cities, including Brussels, Amsterdam and Reykjavik. The announcement yesterday, by Mr George Younger, deputy chairman of the Royal Bank of Scotland, and former Secretary of State for Defence, will enhance the airport's role after its loss in status two months ago, as Scotland's transatlantic gateway.

Emerald Air, based in Belfast, hopes to begin operations in November and proposes a twice-daily service between Prestwick and London City airport.

In addition to flights to Belgium, The Netherlands and Iceland, links with Stavanger in Norway and Edinburgh are also proposed.

Mr Younger, Conservative MP for Ayr, said Emerald Air would provide a significant contribution to Prestwick's future viability and it was hoped that at least two North American carriers would be encouraged to begin operations from the airport as a result.

The votes cast were: Mr David Trimble (UUP) 20,547; Mrs Brid Rodgers (SDLP) 6,698; Ms Sheena Campbell (Sinn Fein) 2,033; The Rev Hugh Ross (Ulster Independence) 1,534; Mr Tom French (Workers Party) 1,083; Mrs Colette Jones (C) 1,038; Dr William Ramsay (Alliance)

Tory deposit lost in Ulster vote

By Edward Gorman

THE Conservative Party's first venture into Northern Ireland electoral politics for 70 years ended in humiliation yesterday when their candidate lost her deposit in the Upper Bann by-election.

The seat was retained comfortably by the Ulster Unionist Party, with candidate Mr David Trimble topping the poll with a majority of 13,849, slightly down on the party's performance at the General Election in 1987.

Mrs Coleen Jones, the Conservative candidate, came sixth polling just 1,038 votes, almost 1,000 votes behind Sinn Fein, the IRA's political wing, which came third. Mrs Jones was among eight of the record 11 candidates standing who lost their £500 deposit.

The votes cast were: Mr David Trimble (UUP) 20,547; Mrs Brid Rodgers (SDLP) 6,698; Ms Sheena Campbell (Sinn Fein) 2,033; The Rev Hugh Ross (Ulster Independence) 1,534; Mr Tom French (Workers Party) 1,083; Mrs Colette Jones (C) 1,038; Dr William Ramsay (Alliance)

Trimble's victory, page 4

Election strategy divides Cabinet

By Sheila Gunn, Political Reporter

Senior members of the Cabinet are at odds over moves to set up a ministerial "A team" this summer to start work on the Conservative manifesto for the general election.

A strong group within the Cabinet is arguing that, if the Conservatives are to stay in power to the end of the century, they must not lose their radical edge by giving away the political initiative to Labour. They are understood to include Sir Geoffrey Howe, the deputy Prime Minister, Mr John Major, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Mr Chris Patten, Secretary of State for Environment.

The result will fuel further criticism from within the Conservative Party over the decision to organize in Northern Ireland, taken at last year's party conference.

Mr Trimble, aged 45, a law lecturer at Queen's University in Belfast, told cheering supporters at Banbridge, County Down, that the result demonstrated the united and determined opposition of Unionists to the Anglo-Irish Agreement, which he said was the principal election issue.

Political analysts blamed the poor showing for Mrs Jones on her apparent support for the Anglo-Irish Agreement, the fact that Upper Bann was not regarded as a strong Conservative area, and on her support of the community charge, which will not be introduced in the province.

They have met with resistance, however, from Mr Kenneth Baker, the party chairman, who believes a manifesto committee fashioned on the last administration's ministerial A team should not be formed until after the Conservative Party conference in October.

His strategy is to damage Labour's opinion poll showing and to sell the Tory policies coming on stream this year before getting to work on the new agenda.

Sir Geoffrey and Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, both said the Government had to set out its vision of the future.

**not doing anything
for the next
sixty seconds?**

**phone this number
and change to
a current account
that pays 9% interest.**

first direct
0800 22 2000

REVIEW
Woman who split a town

When Elisabeth Petre, a married woman with two sons, was chosen to play the Virgin Mary in the Oberammergau passion play it broke a 300-year tradition. It also provoked open hostility. George Hill reports from a town divided. Page 29

An outsider made good

Sir Peter Hall spent a childhood in Suffolk with parents of modest ambition who never went abroad: "It wasn't so much a class gap as an education gap between us," he tells Ray Connolly. Page 31

Alternative meats

British beef has had a bad week with concern over mad cow disease, but there are alternatives. Robin Young reports on the increasing popularity of organic meat and Frances Bissell offers recipes using meat substitutes. Page 35

TRAVEL

Heading into the unknown

No one knows what will happen in Hong Kong when it is returned to China in 1997. Shona Crawford Poole knows the city as it is now and offers a traveller's guide to its high-intensity life. Page 53

SPORT

Leighton in Scots squad

Jim Leighton, the goalkeeper dropped by Manchester United for the Cup Final replay, has kept his place in Scotland's World Cup squad and will go to Italy. Page 45

Arms control talks showing progress

Major progress had been made on an arms control treaty that would crown the coming superpower summit. Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, said yesterday after talks with Mr James Baker, the United States Secretary of State.

Mr Baker had earlier reported progress in five hours of talks with Mr Shevardnadze and President Mikhail Gorbachov, adding that he would provide details at a news conference today.

Mr Shevardnadze said he

From Joe Joseph
Tokyo

TO PICK up one multi-million dollar masterpiece in a week could be considered fortunate; to pick up two might be just a little callous. Mr Ryoei Saito, the Japanese tycoon who this week paid \$160 million (£94 million) for two paintings by Van Gogh and Renoir, is unrepentant. "I know that some people will criticize what I have done," he said yesterday. "But I believe in 50 to 100 years' time they will understand."

"Following these purchases," said Miss Tomoko Inukai, one of Japan's all-purpose television commentators. "Japan's image as a nouveau riche nation has been aggravated."

Mr Saito - aged 74, hugely rich, head of Japan's second biggest paper manufacturer, and the man who has made gallery owners rethink their price tags -

is not much concerned with carpers. He was willing to pay even more than the record \$82.5 million he stumped up on Tuesday for Van Gogh's haunting "Portrait of Dr Gachet" and the \$78.1 million he paid two days later for Renoir's "Au Moulin de la Galette". "I told the dealers that \$100 million was the ceiling for each painting," he said yesterday. "I am very happy. Once you go all the way, I don't think the prices were expensive."

"Works by Van Gogh or Renoir rarely go on sale, so I'm very lucky. What's more, I think it's wonderful that these masterpieces will come to Japan."

If the prices seemed secondary to Mr Saito it may be because he, like many of today's more fashionable businessmen, went to his bankers rather than his bank account to pay for the paintings.

"Debits can be counted as assets"

remains one of his pet sayings even though many other tycoons in Australia, America and Europe - some of them Van Gogh collectors - have found recently their creditors not so understanding.

Mr Saito's company, Daishowa Paper, was founded by his father, Chichiro, in 1938 in Shizuoka, central Japan. Ryoei turned an already thriving business into Japan's second biggest paper maker and one of the Tokyo stock market's bluest chip shares. Last year he was the 32nd biggest taxpayer in Japan with a bill for 790 million yen.

Having landed a couple of unexpected bargains, Mr Saito decided to use the rest of the borrowed cash earmarked for the two paintings but now burning a hole in his pocket to buy a Rodin sculpture at the Sotheby's sale in New York on Thursday. "It was only 650 million yen."

Continued on page 16, col 5



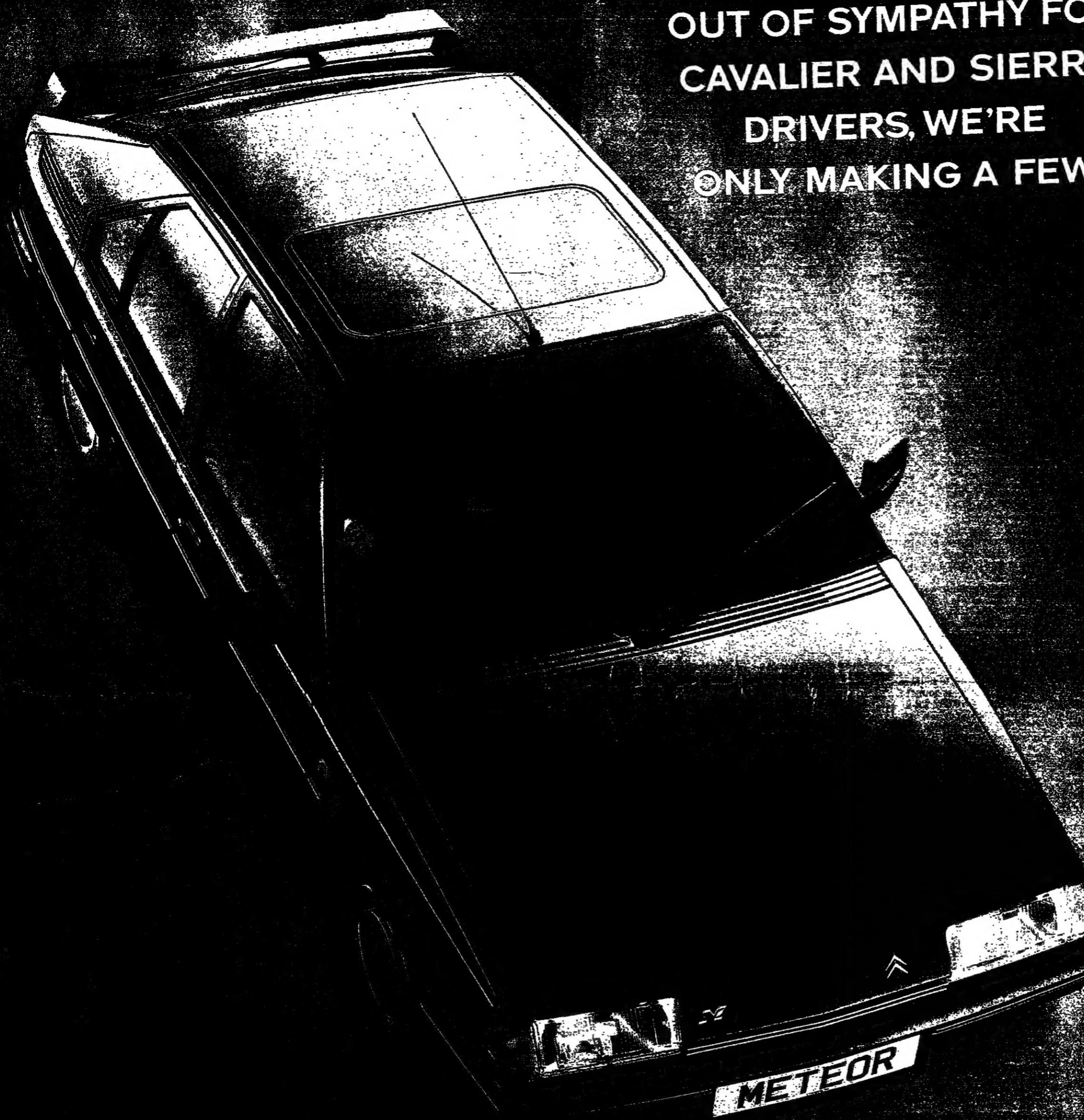
Mr Ryoei Saito: \$160 m ceiling for paintings

INDEX	59
Arts...	36,37
Books...	36,37
Business...	17-22,28
Court & Social...	12
Crosswords...	16
Family money...	23-27
Food and drink...	35
Leading articles...	11
Gardening...	41
Letters...	11
Obituary...	12
Parliament...	4
Records...	40
Shopping...	42,43
Sport...	46-51
TV & Radio...	14,15
Weather...	16

★★★★★

D

first direct is a division of midland bank plc.
midland bank plc is on the Stock Exchange
1-10-25. An £800+ rate quoted
in the annual year
written details on request.



OUT OF SYMPATHY FOR
CAVALIER AND SIERRA
DRIVERS, WE'RE
ONLY MAKING A FEW.

As you sit back in the comfort of your Citroën BX Meteor, spare a thought for those less fortunate.

Drivers of Cavaliers, Sierras and Renault 21s, for example. Poor souls who will have paid rather more for cars which offer considerably less.

Not for them the admiring glances drawn by that unique,

mercury-grey metallic paintwork or purposeful GTi spoiler.

Not for them the quiet satisfaction of sporty red and black velour upholstery, complementing the elegantly black dashboard and trim. Nor the effortless ease of responsive power steering.

Sadly, some of them won't even have electric front windows, an electric sunroof or central locking. And none will have their journeys smoothed by that legendary Citroën ride.

Of course, many of these deprived drivers will deserve very little sympathy. If they chose the wrong car, they have no one to blame but themselves and their lack of imagination.

The ones our hearts should really go out to are those who desperately wanted a BX Meteor but were denied the privilege by the limited supplies.

On the other hand, if they didn't move fast enough, the BX Meteor is obviously not the car for them.



Kinnock sets out 'less painful' cure for inflation

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

A LESS painful cure for high inflation was put forward yesterday by Mr Neil Kinnock as he set the stage for the launch, next Thursday, of Labour's blueprint for its general election manifesto.

The Government's reliance on "punitive" borrowing rates would be replaced by a combination of credit controls, financial discipline and interest rates, plus full membership of the European Monetary System, to curb rising prices.

The Labour leader did not elaborate on the financial disciplines that he would impose, but the blueprint is known to contain a firm commitment not to spend more than the country can afford. The 20,000-word policy document has been drawn up to answer Tory charges that the Opposition is long on rhetoric but short on policies.

Yesterday, at the Welsh Labour Party conference, in Swansea, Mr Kinnock set out to show that he has a credible and electorally appealing answer to Britain's most pressing economic difficulty and to underline his determination to take no risks with inflation. He also seized on the latest unemployment figures to accuse the Tories of forcing up jobless totals to "strangle growth" and slow price rises.

However, with Mr Kenneth Baker, the Conservative Party chairman, preparing for a summer offensive against Labour's revised programme, particularly on its economic

Judges say Gecas case must go on

THREE judges at the Court of Session in Edinburgh yesterday refused to delay an action for damages by Mr Anton Gecas, aged 74, over allegations about his wartime activities.

Mr Gecas, of Moson Terrace, Edinburgh, is suing Times Newspapers. Mr Brian Gill, QC, for *The Times*, asked the court to allow his clients to go to Lithuania to take the evidence of five witnesses. The court said it was not even known if the witnesses were alive. This would have led to the postponement of the court hearing set down for June 5. Lord Dunpore, sitting with Lords McCloskey and McDonald, refused the motion for the discharge of the date for the court hearing.

"It seems to us that if we were to grant the commission there would be infinite delay with prejudice to Mr Gecas, who is 74 and we are informed in poor health," he said. The judge said that his claim for damages, in what has been a long and expensive case, would die with him.

Rifkind denies rift over Ravenscraig closure

By Kerry Gill

MR MALCOLM Rifkind, the Secretary of State for Scotland, said yesterday he had the support of the Prime Minister over his statement to the House of Commons on the Ravenscraig closure and again denied that there was disagreement between himself and the rest of the Cabinet.

Speaking at Irvine, Strathclyde, when he visited a training centre, Mr Rifkind said the Government would try to persuade British Steel to reverse its decision to close the strip mill with the loss of 770 jobs.

"British Steel have tried to close Ravenscraig before. They had second

thoughts and the strip mill turned out to be profitable. We will discuss closure with British Steel again and try to persuade them to change their mind," he said.

He also reiterated his view that an independent Scottish steel industry might be an option, a view strongly supported by the Scottish National Party. Mr Rifkind emphasized, however, that the Government would not step in to prevent the closure scheduled for next year.

"We are not going back to the interventionism of the past when a company which wanted to do something found legislation brought in to prevent it. That was nonsense," he

said, adding again that he had no intention of resigning over the issue. "I am pleased with the Prime Minister's support. My call for British Steel to reconsider their decision is not against the Cabinet view. There was no disagreement. The company will decide on closure at the end of the day," Mr Rifkind added. "Ministers don't resign because companies want to do something for commercial interest."

Motherwell district council disclosed it had commissioned consultants to carry out a feasibility study into continuing investment in Ravenscraig and the Dalzell and Clydesdale steel works. The report

would investigate the market, technical and financial aspects of all three plants with the intention of building a water-tight case for investment.

The council said in a statement it deplored the closure decision and was deeply concerned about the uncertainty surrounding the future at Dalzell and Clydesdale. "The steel industry is a key component in Motherwell's economy. Disinvestment will have far-reaching economic, social and environmental consequences for the area," it said.

More than 16,000 jobs were linked to British Steel operations, two thirds within companies supplying goods and services.

AIR FREIGHT WAREHOUSE nr. LONDON HEATHROW AIRPORT URGENT PUBLIC AUCTION

District Order Executed by the Court Appointed Bailiff District Court Judgement Landgericht Dusseldorf

SEIZED VALUABLE ASSETS

A Large Confiscated Stock of

PERSIAN & EASTERN

Handmade Carpets, Rugs & Corridors including Meshed, Kirman, Nain, Bidjar, Kashay, Hamadan, Behshir, Hissarabad, Djushgah, Astar, Khorassan, Teheran etc.

In Silk & Wool. All Sizes from 2' x 1' to 13' x 10'

These goods sequestered in accordance with the Court verdict have been apportioned with other items for immediate liquidation by

SHORT NOTICE PUBLIC AUCTION

SUNDAY, 20TH MAY at 12.00 NOON SHARP Inspection from 11.00 a.m.

This superb portion reconditioned and stopped in transit now ordered to be sold in quickest possible manner PIECE-BY-PIECE at

INTERNATIONAL FORWARDING LTD. AIR FREIGHT WAREHOUSE

Unit 1, Falcon Way, off Central Way, North Feltham Trading Estate, Feltham, Nr. Heathrow. (Directions: Turn into Fox's Road at Hoton Cross, direction Feltham, turn left at Central Way)

TERMS Cash. Certified cheques, major Credit Cards

BICKENSTAFF & KNOWLES, Auctioneers.

6 The Arcade, Thurloe St, London SW7. Tel: 071-589 7971.

Security-risk leak fuels dispute on MPs' reports

By Sheila Gunn, Political Reporter

THE Commons privileges select committee backed down yesterday from taking action against newspaper journalists for leaking MPs' reports as the BBC infringed Commons rules by prematurely publishing the defence committee's report condemning lack of security at military bases.

With leaks becoming endemic at Westminster, the BBC disclosed that the defence committee's report on security at defence bases, to be published next week, will condemn the standards of many private security firms used to guard 44 sites and call for much stricter vetting. *The Times* leaked the same report more than two weeks ago.

The BBC's release is the latest chapter in the controversy at Westminster over leaked committee reports.

After investigating two previous leaks, the privileges committee yesterday urged that there be no relaxation in the rules on select committee reports. However, one chairman disclosed that he had no fundamental objection against journalists leaking reports already agreed by committees but not yet published.

The privileges committee chaired by Sir Geoffrey Howe, Leader of the Commons, said that premature leaks of two inquiries by the education select committee caused "substantial interference" to its work. However, it failed to trace the leakers and made no recommendation to the Commons for further action to be taken against *Guardian* and *Daily Telegraph* journalists concerned.

The report said: "We retain the right to recommend a severe judgement against any Member or other person who, by breach of trust or otherwise, chooses to inflict serious damage on a select committee by making possible the premature publication of its proceedings."

It added: "We do not favour any change in the rules so as to diminish the protection given to select committees against the premature disclosure of their proceedings."

"We regard as established beyond rebuttal the contention that the work of the education committee suffered damage as a result of the premature disclosures."

Others, however, see David Trimble, the ambitious political opportunist, steadily honing down the rough edges. They predict he will align himself closely with Mr John Taylor, UUP MP for Strangford, described as the F W de Klerk of Ulster politics.

Mr Trimble's allies recognize that at the heart of his political thinking there is an uneasy paradox where reason, moderation and a genuine desire for reconciliation, battle the instinctive prejudice and ghetto mentality of the born and bred Orangeman.

As one colleague said:

"David is a gut Unionist for good or for worse – he's prejudiced for that reason even though intellectually he finds it difficult to justify. But he is also capable of a greater understanding than most unionists of the need to balance support for your tribe with practical negotiation."

Mr Trimble's route to Westminster has not been as easy as it might have been. Although long ago sacrificing his promising academic career for politics, he has missed out on a number of occasions since to move to centre stage. Although his past record and particularly his central involvement with Vanguard in the early 1970s and Mr Wil-

iam Craig's proposals for a voluntary coalition including the SDLP, would suggest he is committed to power-sharing, observers will watch closely to see how he plays his hand.

Some believe, at bottom, he would balk if faced with the reality of sharing power with Roman Catholics and predict he may lose his appetite for devolution once safely in Westminster as some Unionist MPs have before him.

Others, however, see David Trimble, the ambitious political opportunist, steadily honing down the rough edges. They predict he will align himself closely with Mr John Taylor, UUP MP for Strangford, described as the F W de Klerk of Ulster politics.

Commenting on the leak of the defence committee report, Sir Hugh Rossi, chairman of the Commons environment committee, said yesterday: "If the committee have agreed the report already, then it is a

matter which is going to be public in that form in any event."

He added: "Where I think the committee of privileges does have to look into the matter is where a chairman's draft report has not yet been considered by the committee and the committee then considers it, not impartially and calmly, based on the evidence, but under pressure from media commentators suggesting what they ought to say."

Premature leaks cast suspicion on "a whole legion of innocent people", including officials.

However, Mr Tony Benn, Labour MP for Chesterfield, said: "With the televising of Parliament and the growing public interest in the work of select committees, it is absurd that members should be advised to retain restrictions on reporting based on a resolution passed 150 years ago."

Mr Benn disclosed that he had tried to amend the present rule so that all select committees should hear all evidence and deliberate in public, unless a motion to meet in private were agreed. During a private session of the privileges committee, the amendment was defeated by eight votes to one.

Leading article, page 11

Drink-drive campaign 'succeeding'

Police are succeeding in deterring Scottish drivers from drinking, but the Government will crack down even harder in future. Lord James Douglas-Hamilton, the Scottish Office minister, said yesterday.

Lord James told a police conference at Peebles in the Borders that recorded cases of people driving over the limit fell between 1986 and 1988. New statistics were likely to show a further decline in 1989, Lord James said.

He pledged, however, that drunk-drivers would continue to face a high risk of detection, because of the continued use of wide police powers.

Factory fire

Two workers were injured, one seriously, when an explosion caused a fire at a printing works in Idle, Bradford, yesterday. Five firemen attended the blaze at Wainmough's Print. The village was sealed off and traffic diverted because of danger from toxic fumes.

Irish drug swoop

Five men were arrested yesterday when police swooped on a house at Larne, Co Antrim, and seized 25kg of cannabis with a street value of £250,000. Detectives believe the drug was ready for distribution on both sides of the Irish border by dealers linked to Protestant paramilitaries.

Case dismissed

Charges against Mr Frank Peters, aged 42, a managing director, and Mr Neil Taylor, aged 47, an accountant, of being involved in a £2.5 million fraud after the collapse of the Parrot Corporation based in Cwmbran, Gwent, were dismissed by Cardiff Crown Court yesterday.

Life sentence

A woman was jailed for life yesterday at Leeds Crown Court for murdering her brother at their father's sixtieth birthday party in Bradford. Susan Richardson, aged 36, of Keighley, West Yorkshire, stabbed her brother Eric, aged 37, in the heart.

Buyer: The Times: Australia \$2.50; Belgium B Frs 55; Canada \$2.75; Canary Pcs 220; France F 1.20; Germany DM 2.90; Greece Dr 100; Ireland 40p; Italy L 3.00; Japan Yen 100; Luxembourg 40c; Monaco Dr 15.00; Norway Kr 18; Portugal 50c; Switzerland SFr 3.00; United Kingdom 50p; USA 25c. Seller: The Times: Austria Sch 32; Belgium B Frs 55; Canada \$2.75; France F 1.20; Germany DM 2.90; Greece Dr 100; Ireland 40p; Italy L 3.00; Japan Yen 100; Luxembourg 40c; Monaco Dr 15.00; Norway Kr 18; Portugal 50c; Switzerland SFr 3.00; United Kingdom 50p; USA 25c.

Public money was required, although Labour was opposed to using taxpayers' money to prop up private sector projects.

It was time for a statement about what was going on.

Mr Freeman said that there was no question of the Government bailing out the tunnel itself.

The Stratford terminal had been carefully evaluated. Had it been chosen, BR would still have approached it from the South, not from the East, to ensure that any benefits from the new line were shared with Waterloo.

Scientists appointed

The names of three scientists to serve on the new joint committee through which the new conservation agencies to succeed the Nature Conservancy Council will work were announced in the House of Lords yesterday. Lord Heseltine, Under Secretary of State for the Environment, said that British Rail had all the hallmarks of a good job. The strategic issues had not been addressed before decisions on the route appeared to have been taken.

They are: Professor John Harper, Emeritus Professor of Botany, University of Wales;



Collision course set over NHS pay

By Tim Jones
Employment Correspondent

MR DAVID Trimble, the new MP for Upper Bann, is regarded as a bright light in the generally lacklustre Ulster Unionist Party and who might one day become its leader.

Mr Trimble, who, at 45, is still young for a UUP MP, will not take long to make his mark in the Commons and is expected to stand out among his colleagues as a vigorous, articulate, if not at times pedantic and angry, exponent of unionist anxieties.

Until now a committed devolutionist, he is a passionate opponent of the Anglo-Irish Agreement, while also a determined campaigner for improving and making more accountable the Orders in Council system. In many respects the Queen's University law lecturer, who speaks for the party on legal issues and lives at Lisburn, Co Antrim, is unusual in modern-day unionist politics.

His intellectual approach is regarded with suspicion by many in his party and his uneasy blend of middle-class respectability and barely concealed rough edges of the "street fighter" mentality, do not sit easily with the stiffer elements of Ulster unionism.

Another 140,000 NHS hospital support workers, who belong to the Confederation of Health Service Employees, are also balloting for industrial action after a 7.8 per cent offer. They are demanding rises of £17.33.

Unlike other unions

Ulster poll winner a bright light in lacklustre party

By Edward Gorman, Irish Affairs Correspondent

Roman Catholic rhetoric more often associated with Mr Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party than with Mr James Molyneaux's UUP.

A recent example of this was Mr Trimble's decision to join Mr Paisley and others on the roof of Mr Molyneaux's headquarters in Belfast – much to the UUP leader's embarrassment – to hurl abuse at Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish Prime Minister, when he visited the city last month.

Mr Trimble's allies recognize that at the heart of his political thinking there is an uneasy paradox where reason, moderation and a genuine desire for reconciliation, battle the instinctive prejudice and ghetto mentality of the born and bred Orangeman.

Mr Trimble's route to Westminster has not been as easy as it might have been. Although long ago sacrificing his promising academic career for politics, he has missed out on a number of occasions since to move to centre stage. Although his past record and particularly his central involvement with Vanguard in the early 1970s and Mr Wil-

iam Craig's proposals for a voluntary coalition including the SDLP, would suggest he is committed to power-sharing, observers will watch closely to see how he plays his hand.

Some believe, at bottom, he would balk if faced with the reality of sharing power with Roman Catholics and predict he may lose his appetite for devolution once safely in Westminster as some Unionist MPs have before him.

Others, however, see David Trimble, the ambitious political opportunist, steadily honing down the rough edges. They predict he will align himself closely with Mr John Taylor, UUP MP for Strangford, described as the F W de Klerk of Ulster politics.

Commenting on the leak of the defence committee report, Sir Hugh Rossi, chairman of the Commons environment committee, said yesterday: "If the committee have agreed the report already, then it is a

Oil spill engulfs marine habitat

OIL polluting one of the country's most important marine habitats will remain there rather than be removed by mechanical or chemical means (Lin Jenkins writes).

The oil is likely to suffocate life in the rock pools of Wembury Marine Conservation Park on the south Devon coast, but conservationists believe any attempt to mop it up would cause greater damage to the Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Devon county council's clean-up team had hoped that the slick would miss Wembury, but winds moved the remains of the oil spill a week ago when a trawler hauled Rose Bay, a supertanker, further west towards Rame Head outside Plymouth Sound.

The marine conservation park along a four-mile stretch between Blackstone Rock and Wembury Point

"Where I think there is going to be a form in any case of privileges to look into the evidence from the committee then consider it impartially and fairly the committee has not yet been able to say."

"Leaks cast suspicion on the whole legion of people", including Mr Tony Benn, for Chesterfield, and the growing list of the work of the committee, it is absurd to say that there should be any restrictions on a resolution 150 years ago."

disclosed that he amend the present all select committee to meet in Edinburgh, had all but run out.

The scheme, which could be completed by 1998, envisages up to 5,000 new jobs in manufacturing enterprises, a hotel and conference centre, a country and campus park and two villages of mixed tenure housing.

Mr Murray, whose delivered a brief of the project yesterday to Mr Malcolm Rilkind, Secretary of State for Scotland, said the dev-

succeeding in determining drivers from the Government down even harder than James Douglas, the Scottish Office, said yesterday.

James told a police

that recorded cases of driving over the limit between 1986 and 1988

cases were likely to

decline in 1989,

but the Government

had even harder

and James Douglas,

the Scottish Office, said yesterday.

James told a police

that recorded cases of

driving over the limit

between 1986 and 1988

cases were likely to

decline in 1989,

but the Government

had even harder

and James Douglas,

the Scottish Office, said yesterday.

James told a police

that recorded cases of

driving over the limit

between 1986 and 1988

cases were likely to

decline in 1989,

but the Government

had even harder

and James Douglas,

the Scottish Office, said yesterday.

James told a police

that recorded cases of

driving over the limit

between 1986 and 1988

cases were likely to

decline in 1989,

but the Government

had even harder

and James Douglas,

the Scottish Office, said yesterday.

James told a police

that recorded cases of

driving over the limit

between 1986 and 1988

cases were likely to

decline in 1989,

but the Government

had even harder

and James Douglas,

the Scottish Office, said yesterday.

James told a police

that recorded cases of

driving over the limit

between 1986 and 1988

cases were likely to

decline in 1989,

but the Government

had even harder

and James Douglas,

the Scottish Office, said yesterday.

James told a police

that recorded cases of

driving over the limit

between 1986 and 1988

cases were likely to

decline in 1989,

but the Government

had even harder

and James Douglas,

the Scottish Office, said yesterday.

James told a police

that recorded cases of

driving over the limit

between 1986 and 1988

cases were likely to

decline in 1989,

but the Government

had even harder

and James Douglas,

the Scottish Office, said yesterday.

James told a police

that recorded cases of

driving over the limit

between 1986 and 1988

cases were likely to

decline in 1989,

but the Government

had even harder

and James Douglas,

the Scottish Office, said yesterday.

James told a police

that recorded cases of

driving over the limit

between 1986 and 1988

cases were likely to

decline in 1989,

but the Government

had even harder

and James Douglas,

the Scottish Office, said yesterday.

James told a police

that recorded cases of

driving over the limit

between 1986 and 1988

cases were likely to

decline in 1989,

but the Government

had even harder

and James Douglas,

the Scottish Office, said yesterday.

James told a police

that recorded cases of

driving over the limit

between 1986 and 1988

cases were likely to

decline in 1989,

but the Government

had even harder

and James Douglas,

the Scottish Office, said yesterday.

James told a police

that recorded cases of

driving over the limit

between 1986 and 1988

cases were likely to

decline in 1989,

but the Government

had even harder

and James Douglas,

the Scottish Office, said yesterday.

James told a police

that recorded cases of

driving over the limit

between 1986 and 1988

cases were likely to

decline in 1989,

but the Government

had even harder

and James Douglas,

the Scottish Office, said yesterday.

James told a police

that recorded cases of

driving over the limit

between 1986 and 1988

cases were likely to

decline in 1989,

but the Government

had even harder

and James Douglas,

the Scottish Office, said yesterday.

James told a police

that recorded cases of

driving over the limit

between 1986 and 1988

cases were likely to

decline in 1989,

but the Government

had even harder

and James Douglas,

the Scottish Office, said yesterday.

James told a police

that recorded cases of

driving over the limit

between 1986 and 1988

cases were likely to

decline in 1989,

but the Government

had even harder

and James Douglas,

the Scottish Office, said yesterday.

James told a police

that recorded cases of

driving over the limit

between 1986 and 1988

cases were likely to

decline in 1989,

but the Government

had even harder

and James Douglas,

the Scottish Office, said yesterday.

James told a police

that recorded cases of

driving over the limit

between 1986 and 1988

cases were likely to

decline in 1989,

but the Government

had even harder

and James Douglas,

the Scottish Office, said yesterday.

James told a police

that recorded cases of

Chancellor heralds law on job bias for lawyers

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

GOVERNMENT proposals to outlaw racial and sexual discrimination in the legal profession are likely to bring about far-reaching changes, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, said yesterday.

The proposals, on which the Government has tabled amendments to the courts and legal services Bill now going through the Commons, would provide "greater equality of opportunity both for new entrants and for established practitioners". Under the amendments, the provisions of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 and the Race Relations Act 1976 would be extended to barristers' chambers and those instructing them.

Lord Mackay told the Inns of Court Students' Association at Birmingham University that in relation to chambers, the amendments would "make it unlawful for a barrister or barrister's clerk to discriminate against a person on grounds either of sex or race. Lord Mackay said: "It will require both solicitors and the other professionals and organizations who instruct barristers to exercise their professional judgement to choose counsel on the basis solely of merit."

The strength and professionalism of the Bar lay in the qualities of "detachment and judgement" which its members brought to their cases as independent consultants, he said.

At present, the provisions of the race relations Act and sex discrimination Act do not cover barristers in private practice. That is because they do not practise in partnership or have contractual relationships with the other members of their chambers or clients.

While the amendments were welcomed by the Bar, however, the Law Society expressed regret that they did not permit solicitors to exercise the exceptions contained in the race and sex discrimination laws. Under the exceptions, choice can be exercised in favour of a certain racial group or a particular group in certain defined circumstances.

"For instance," the Law Society said, "a black actor can be sought to play Othello, or a female nanny can be recruited to help a mother." The Law Society said it wanted to see a similar arrangement so clients could instruct barristers of a particular racial group or sex where the circumstances were such that the barrister's services could most effectively be provided by a barrister of that racial group or sex.

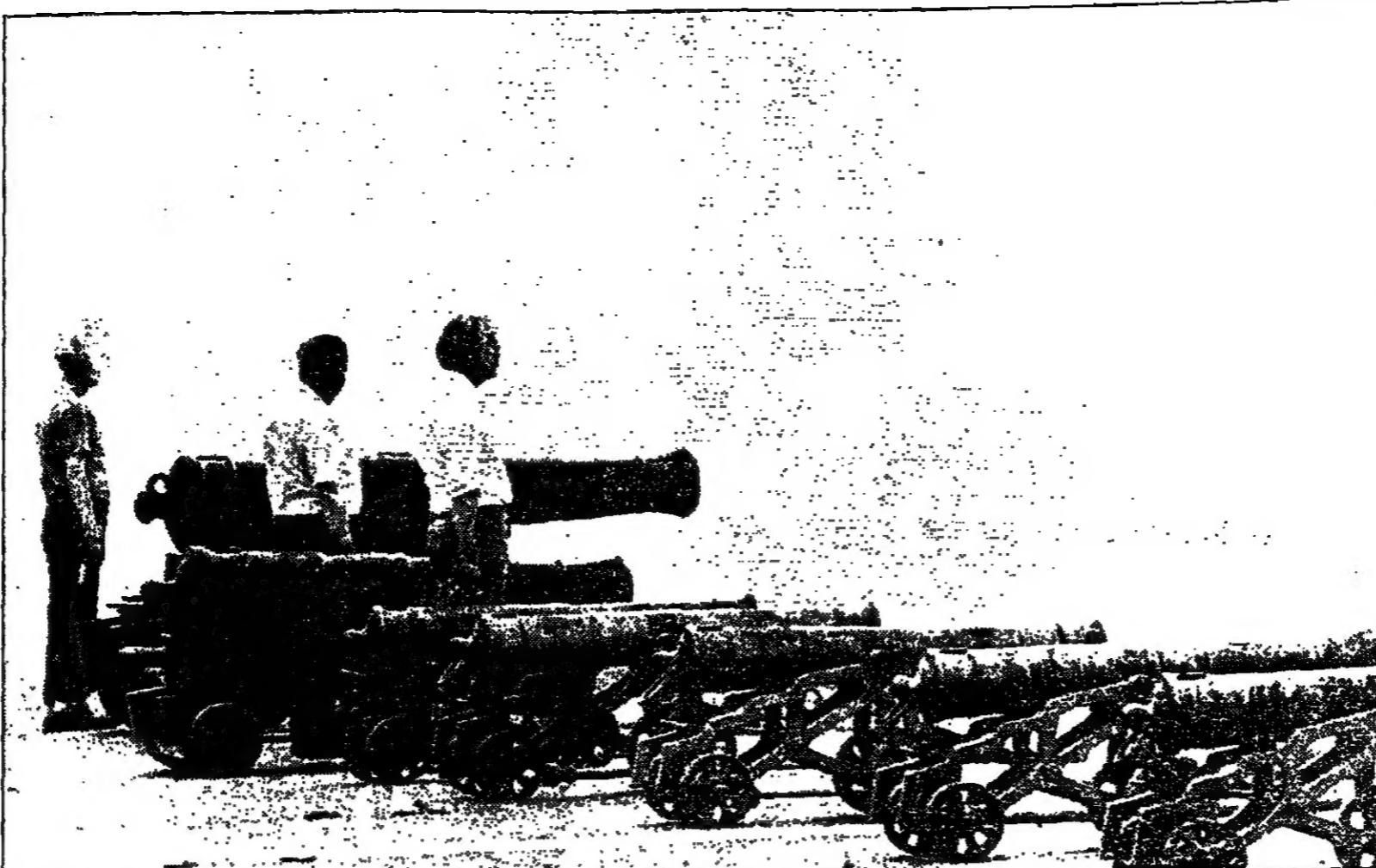
British Customs operates a fleet of seven cutters, mostly in the Channel approaches, but increased smuggling in small craft to the west coast of Scotland may bring about a change in deployment.

Seizures of drugs up 600%

SEIZURES of illegal drugs from maritime surveillance mounted by Customs in co-operation with officials of other European countries have risen by more than 600 per cent to 25 tonnes since 1986 (Quentin Cowdry writes).

UK Customs officers, who believe the increase underlines the importance of liaison between European states, signed a formal agreement on maritime and aerial surveillance yesterday with counterparts from France and Spain.

British Customs operates a fleet of seven cutters, mostly in the Channel approaches, but increased smuggling in small craft to the west coast of Scotland may bring about a change in deployment.



Employees at the Historic Dockyard at Chatham, Kent, firing a nine-pounder at a rehearsal for a 10-gun salute to mark the christening of the Olau Britannia, a new ferry from The Netherlands. Two of the guns were recovered from the Medway and restored at the dockyard

Clan chief loses a noble clause

By Sheila Gunn, Political Reporter

MPS HAVE foiled an attempt by Scottish hereditary peers to protect the purity of their bloodlines in the new era of test-tube fertilization techniques.

Lady Saltoun of Abernethy, chief of the Fraser clan, campaigned and won the support of Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, for a provision in the Warnock legislation to prevent children born from embryo or sperm donation from inheriting titles, coats of arms, hereditary posts or any other fringe benefits from the centuries-old peerage system.

She argued that if infertile peers produced offspring with the help of the new procedures they will not be the "true" heirs. While she did not reject a commoner being certified as the legal father when he was not the natural father, she issued a warning that it threatened to contaminate the peerage of the nobility.

On her side were ranged various bodies concerned with preserving the purity of hereditary bloodlines. However, this week, Mrs Maria Fife, Labour MP for Glasgow Maryhill, defeated the Government by removing the provision from the Human

"In 1990 we are being asked to declare who can or cannot inherit clan chieftainships and titles that should have been abolished long ago," she said. "The Roman emperors often adopted heirs because they were infertile. If that was good enough to run the Roman empire, might it not be good enough to rule the clans, which matter to no one nowadays, least of all to the ordinary people of Scotland?"

Scheme for new services gives a lift to Prestwick

By Kerry Gill

THE viability of Prestwick Airport, which lost its transatlantic gateway status two months ago, was improved yesterday with the announcement of a range of new air services.

Emrald Air proposes later this year to link Prestwick directly with a number of European cities, including London, Brussels and Amsterdam. It was disclosed by Mr George Younger, Conservative MP for Ayr, whose constituency includes Prestwick and who is deputy chairman of the Royal Bank of

Scotland. The airline, to be based in Belfast, hopes that by establishing a hub operation at Prestwick it can provide further business for the Ayrshire airport by attracting new transatlantic services.

The announcement is the first good news for the airport since the Government's disclosure that its monopoly on Scottish transatlantic flights was to be abandoned in favour of an open-skies policy.

Prestwick has since been sidelined as a range of operators, including Northwest Airlines and American Airlines, have started flights from

Sheffield to get £100m airport

A NEW airport costing £100 million is to be developed on a former industrial site in Sheffield, providing 3,500 jobs and linking South Yorkshire with Europe, it was announced yesterday.

The development, just three miles from the centre of the city, is scheduled to open in the summer of 1993. Aircraft with a capacity up to 107 seats will be able to use the airport, which is likely to serve western European destinations such as Paris, Brussels and Amsterdam.

Sheffield is the largest city in Europe not to have its own airport. The proposal comes after an agreement between the independent Government-funded Sheffield Development Corporation and the Budge Mining Company. Airports UK Ltd, a subsidiary of

BAA, formerly the British Airports Authority, has been appointed to operate the airport, which will be built on 175 acres of land straddling a former industrial site in Sheffield's Lower Don Valley, where British Coal is carrying out open cast mining. Construction of the 1,200-metre runway will begin in early 1992.

An industrial and commercial complex is also planned for the site, providing up to one million square feet of new manufacturing and office accommodation, plus terminal buildings, restaurants and shops. Mr Hugh Sykes, chairman of Sheffield Development Corporation, said: "This is what the region's business community has been waiting for. An ultra-modern airport on its doorstep."

Prince supports opera fund

By Craig Seton

THE Prince of Wales has given his support to a £50 million fund-raising project to build an opera house in the grounds of Compton Verney, a listed classical country house in Warwickshire.

The Prince and Princess of Wales are to attend a concert and dinner at Compton Verney today in aid of the project, which would give the region its first important opera house.

Sir Kenneth Bradshaw, project administrator, said the Prince had shown great interest in the scheme and in the architectural plans for the opera house, which will be designed by Henning Larsen, from Denmark, who was chosen after an international competition.

Arts plan 'will cost more'

By Simon Tait, Arts Correspondent

FAR from saving money and cutting bureaucracy, the plan of Mr Richard Luce, Minister for the Arts, to devolve funding from the Arts Council to new regional arts boards will need more money and increase administration, according to Mr Simon Mundy, director of the National Campaign for the Arts.

The exercise was in danger of becoming no more than a "bureaucratic distraction", he said yesterday.

Mr Charles Henderson, Head of the Office of Arts and Libraries and chairman of the steering committee for the new structure, this week told the public accounts committee that the scheme would save "not more than £2 million and possibly a good deal less" on current expenditure, but neither savings nor costs had been calculated.

The 12 regional arts associations are to become 10 regional boards, with most of the Arts Council's funding responsibility devolved to them. Recommendations made in the Wilding report last autumn, which had been calculated to save £2 million,

Mr Mundy: "Changes will cost a small fortune"

Satanic Verses may be dropped

By David Sapsted

PENGUIN is ready to scrap publication of a paperback edition of *The Satanic Verses* amid commercial concerns that the price of free speech is proving too high to bear, it was disclosed yesterday.

Since the Ayatollah Khomeini's fatwa against the author Salman Rushdie in February last year, the initial surge of profits from the hardback edition of the book has been overtaken by the security costs, estimated at £2 million a year, involved in protecting the company against outraged Muslims. So far there has been a net profit from the Viking hardback edition of about £1.8 million in Britain and the US.

Insiders at Penguin said there was a substantial body of opinion within the company that would like to see it publicly dropped. One said: "There is a feeling we could get ourselves out of this mess by announcing we were abandoning the paperback as our contribution towards freeing hostages like Terry Waite and John McCarthy."

The opposing commercial view within Penguin is that, having already spent so much on security, a new round of protests pose much less of a threat and that, if Penguin decided not to go ahead, Mr Rushdie would then be free to sell the paperback rights to any other company.

Any move by Penguin to cancel a paperback version would be privately welcomed by the Government, which appears to be facing increasingly difficult negotiations over the release of hostages. Mr Rushdie himself, however, is believed to be determined to see the softback edition published.

Penguin's £2 million outlay on protecting its properties and interests in Britain and overseas does not include the cost to the British taxpayer of protecting the author, who is guarded around the clock by 10 armed Special Branch officers.

The costs of policing, coupled with the need to find new "safe" houses on a regular basis, is believed to be about £1 million a year.

As well as continuing Iranian outrage over the book, the domestic threat against the author has remained undiminished. Penguin in the UK is still getting abusive or threatening letters to add to the 5,000 it had already received and this year nine Muslims have been expelled from the UK amid fears that they were plotting against Mr Rushdie.

There have also been 25 bomb threats against Penguin premises or bookshops selling *The Satanic Verses* in Britain. In America, more than 30,000 threatening or abusive letters have been received. A spokesman for the company said yesterday that no decision on a paperback edition had been reached.



This winter, there'll be pennies off heaven.

The rustling of palm trees; the sighing of the breeze; the swell of the sea; the money in your wallet.

It's not a dream, it's a winter sun holiday from Lunn Poly. We're discounting every overseas holiday booked between now and June 30th.

The new brochures are out this week. So, to make sure you get the holiday of your dreams, all you have to do is: one, pop into Lunn Poly, two, put down £35 deposit and, three, take out Lunn Poly insurance. Three steps to heaven?

Discount applies to all overseas bookings subject to availability.

Lunn Poly

ATOL 0010 ABTA 13057

Food poisoning 'killed off' dinosaurs

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

FOOD poisoning caused the death of the dinosaurs, according to evidence forming the basis of the latest theory for the extinction of the largest creatures roaming the earth 65 million years ago. The poison was ingested through plants contaminated by nickel in the most devastating bout of pollution suffered by the planet.

The conclusion adds a new twist to one of the scores of ideas about how the fate of the creatures was sealed when a giant meteorite hit the planet.

Dr Thomas Wdowiak and colleagues at the University of Alabama, in the United States, have conducted experiments that, he says, show how nickel got into the food chain and contaminated plants to provide the fatal ingredient. The nickel is believed to have spread across the globe in an aerosol cloud generated when a meteorite hit the earth and vaporized. British experts are sceptical about the idea, reported in the latest issue of *New Scientist*. Mr Cyril Walker, of the Natural History Museum, London, says that the theory seems reasonable until one tries to reconcile the survival of crocodiles and other reptiles with the extinction of hundreds of other species. Theories involving the impact by meteorite are among the most popular suggestions for the mass extinctions.

Yet those various hypotheses still depend on a two-stage effect of some sort to cause the lethal conditions, involving, firstly, a giant crater from which clouds of particles were thrown into the atmosphere to create, secondly, a veil of dust that screened the sunlight for years and brought devastating climatic change that was fatal for both flora and fauna.

Dr Wdowiak argues that nickel poisoning offers a more satisfactory explanation. His answer came unexpectedly from experiments in hydroponics, in which plants are grown in a solution of nutrient. The trials included a solution of minerals containing extracts of meteorite fragments. Meteorite debris was tested because other work indicated that plants grow faster in lunar "soil", considered comparable to meteoritic material.

In practice, the leaves of plants grown in nutrient of meteorite origin turned brownish yellow, because they lacked chlorophyll. Analysis showed the cause to be nickel contamination. Although meteorites are known to be rich in nickel, Dr Wdowiak says that it was not appreciated that the nickel was in a water-soluble form that would enter the food chain, exceeding the concentration of 40 parts per million regarded as the maximum safe level.

He calculates that a meteorite with a diameter of about six miles, believed to have struck the earth 65 millions years ago, could have raised average levels of nickel in soil from 15 parts per million to between 130 and 1,300 parts per million.

Leading article, page 11

Kohl hails German 'birth hour' as pact on Mark is signed

From Ian Murray, Bonn

AT THE desk in the graceful Palais Schaumburg where Konrad Adenauer worked, the finance ministers of the two Germanies yesterday signed the treaty marking the first and most purposeful step in the peaceful reunification of their countries.

Presiding at what he called "the birth hour of a free Germany" was Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, doubling as midwife and godfather of the treaty on economic, currency and social union that will introduce the powerful Deutsche mark as the only coinage of both countries from July 2.

The Chancellor's voice shook with emotion as he spoke of "the realization of the dream of German and European unity". Dwarving Herr Lothar de Maizière, his diminutive East German counterpart, in size and confidence, Herr Kohl seemed aware that he was in large measure responsible for having made possible "this historic hour in the life of the German nation".

He had chosen the cabinet room in what was the old Chancellery for the ceremony. Unused since 1976, it has

become a kind of shrine to the first and, to date, most venerated of West Germany's Chancellors. Herr Kohl, a Christian Democrat who likes to think of himself as Adenauer's political grandson, wanted to show that the first treaty on union was a direct descendant of the Basic Law that Adenauer turned into the democratic foundation of the modern German nation.

The treaty itself means that the Bundesbank will take over the running of the bankrupt East German economy, which is estimated to be running a budget deficit of DM 33 billion this year (£1.87 billion), growing to DM 53 billion in 1991. Against this is to be paid credits of DM 7 billion this year and DM 10 billion next year.

The economic details of the treaty, however, were less important to Herr Kohl than the historic opportunity to put an end to all the sorrows of the past century. He had earlier recognized the role Germany had played in provoking those sorrows. In compensation he now urged that the German people, united in freedom, "should serve in a united Europe for the peace of the world".

For Herr de Maizière, the day was "important" rather than historic. The treaty itself represented a compromise, he said, but it was still a good, solid guide for creating "an

ecologically orientated social market economy". Member of the Christian Democrats (CDU) though he is, Herr de Maizière appeared to pick this phrase from the programme of the opposition Social Democrats (SPD).

He admitted that being taken over by the Deutschmark economy gave East Germany a starting position that no other East European state

would enjoy: "We stand before an important, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. We want that opportunity to use freedom, peace and social justice in the service of Europe."

Herr Theodor Waigel, the West German Finance Minister, was first to sign the 33-page treaty followed by Herr Walter Romberg, his East German counterpart.

Between now and late June,

the Volkskammer is likely to be busy drafting and redrafting the legislation needed to introduce a free market economy. Since the members are now to be paid DM 5,900 monthly (£2,122) they will probably not mind the extra work.

Towards the end of next month, the Volkskammer will be called upon to ratify the treaty, but there is expected to be no difficulty in winning the necessary support from two-thirds of the members.

The Bundestag members, who must ratify the treaty by a simple majority, will be coming back for a special session during their holidays on June 23 to do so. The SPD is still complaining that it does not like many of the terms of the treaty, but the Chancellor is confident nothing can stop it.

Between now and late June,

there is expected to be no difficulty in winning the necessary support from two-thirds of the members.

Nuclear talks make progress

Moscow

MR James Baker, the US Secretary of State, said yesterday that he had made progress in five hours of talks with President Gorbachov on a treaty to cut superpower arsenals of long-range nuclear weapons.

"We made some progress on Start (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty)," Mr Baker told reporters after the meeting, which ran 2½ hours over schedule.

His statement, by far the most optimistic to emerge from either side in weeks, left a clear impression that the superpowers now stood a good chance of being able to announce an outline agreement when Presidents Gorbachov and Bush meet in Washington on May 30. "I'll be having a full-blown press conference tomorrow and I'll be glad to go into a lot more detail at that time," Mr Baker said.

Before the meeting began, President Gorbachov said he did not know if it would be possible to meet his and President Bush's declared goal of announcing an agreement in principle at the Washington summit. "We are doing our best to make sure we agree. We have to do this together. I think we are moving closer," he said.

Start was originally designed to cut superpower arsenals of strategic missiles by 50 per cent. However, exceptions have been written into the treaty that will make the real cuts more in the range of 30 to 35 per cent.

Mr Baker said teams of negotiators led by him and Mr Shevardnadze would meet again later yesterday. "We still have a number of issues that are still out there, and we're going to meet again," he said.

Asked if the goal of announcing agreement at the summit could be met, Mr Baker said: "We keep hoping that we can accomplish that. I know President Bush would like to see agreement on the major substantive issues and so would President Gorbachov." Broad agreement on Start was clearly intended to crown the summit. Failure to achieve that would be bound to be interpreted as a setback in relations.

No rushing, page 10

Push for party to quit poll in Prague

From Peter Green
Prague

THE Czechoslovak election campaign took on strident anti-communist overtones yesterday as four leading political parties called for the Communists either to withdraw from the polls or to be banned.

In a related development, Civil Forum yesterday suggested that members of the former secret police, the STB, were preparing a disinformation campaign to disrupt parliamentary elections scheduled for June 8 and 9.

The parties accused the Communists of "aiming to seize power anew", and said that their activities were "endangering Czechoslovakia's fragile democracy".

The statement was made by the People's Party, the Social Democrats, the Socialist Party and the Slovak Democratic Party, all of which are trailing Civil Forum in the polls.

In a front-page reply yesterday, the Communist newspaper, *Rude Pravo*, called the demand for the party to be banned a "cheap" pre-election trick. "The rebirth of the Communist Party into a legitimate political force of the left is a long and painful process for many of its members," the daily said.

It proceeded to tar its opponents with their own brush, accusing them of kowtowing to the Communists' totalitarian regime.

"Even the Socialist Party and the People's Party were for four decades part of the now-destroyed totalitarian system, and brought to it willingly or unwillingly the required sacrificial offerings."

Meanwhile, Civil Forum's leader, Mr Jan Urban, said dozens of members of the STB had been dismissed from the Interior Ministry in the past 48 hours, and suggested that they were behind an extensive disinformation campaign aimed at disrupting the elections. He said it was unlikely that foreign sources were involved.

Guerrillas suspend fight

LIMA
A FACTION of the Maoist guerrilla movement, Shining Path, announced yesterday that it would "temporarily withdraw" from armed actions in its 10-year-old war to overthrow the Peruvian Government (Corinne Schmidt writes). The announcement came in leaflets left on the streets of the Andean city of Ayacucho. The "Ayacucho Base" of the organization announced the temporary ceasefire in order "to evaluate ten years of struggle", criticizing the killings of workers and peasants, but declaring that the ideological struggle would continue.

Lebanese held
Tyre — The South Lebanese Army, Israel's proxy militia, has arrested five Lebanese Christians in connection with the assassination in March of Mr William Robinson, an American missionary. (AFP)

Demands met

Abidjan — The Ivory Coast Government agreed to meet the demands of conscripts who took over the airport and TV on Wednesday before returning to barracks. (AFP)

Careless talk

Manila — The United States warned President Aquino that it could pull out of its military facilities in the Philippines unless Manila based its alliance with Washington on more than money. (Reuters)

Aquino warned

Lubbock, Texas — Mr Otto Lucas, aged 21, the son of a former Panamanian President

has been found not guilty of threatening to kill President Bush while talking in a pawn shop, where he was looking at a gun. (AFP)

Killer executed

Angola, Louisiana — Dalton Prejean, aged 30, who fought

to escape death on grounds that he was a mentally retarded teenager when he committed murder, was executed by electric chair. (AFP)



meant to limit the amount of public money needed to reconstruct the rundown infrastructure.

As part of what Herr Kohl frequently referred to yesterday as "the solidarity of the German people", the West German Government yesterday drew up a second supplementary budget of DM 2.75 billion to provide initial funding for the pensions and inevitable unemployment benefits that will be needed as the free market economy "shakes out" unproductive workers.

The economic details of the treaty, however, were less important to Herr Kohl than the historic opportunity to put an end to all the sorrows of the past century. He had earlier recognized the role Germany had played in provoking those sorrows. In compensation he now urged that the German people, united in freedom, "should serve in a united Europe for the peace of the world".

For Herr de Maizière, the day was "important" rather than historic. The treaty itself represented a compromise, he said, but it was still a good, solid guide for creating "an

ecologically orientated social market economy". Member of the Christian Democrats (CDU) though he is, Herr de Maizière appeared to pick this phrase from the programme of the opposition Social Democrats (SPD).

He admitted that being taken over by the Deutschmark economy gave East Germany a starting position that no other East European state

would enjoy: "We stand before an important, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. We want that opportunity to use freedom, peace and social justice in the service of Europe."

Herr Theodor Waigel, the West German Finance Minister, was first to sign the 33-page treaty followed by Herr Walter Romberg, his East German counterpart.

Between now and late June,

the Volkskammer is likely to be busy drafting and redrafting the legislation needed to introduce a free market economy. Since the members are now to be paid DM 5,900 monthly (£2,122) they will probably not mind the extra work.

Towards the end of next month, the Volkskammer will be called upon to ratify the treaty, but there is expected to be no difficulty in winning the necessary support from two-thirds of the members.

Between now and late June,

there is expected to be no difficulty in winning the necessary support from two-thirds of the members.

Between now and late June,

there is expected to be no difficulty in winning the necessary support from two-thirds of the members.

Between now and late June,

there is expected to be no difficulty in winning the necessary support from two-thirds of the members.

Between now and late June,

there is expected to be no difficulty in winning the necessary support from two-thirds of the members.

Between now and late June,

there is expected to be no difficulty in winning the necessary support from two-thirds of the members.

Between now and late June,

there is expected to be no difficulty in winning the necessary support from two-thirds of the members.

Between now and late June,

there is expected to be no difficulty in winning the necessary support from two-thirds of the members.

Between now and late June,

there is expected to be no difficulty in winning the necessary support from two-thirds of the members.

Between now and late June,

there is expected to be no difficulty in winning the necessary support from two-thirds of the members.

Between now and late June,

there is expected to be no difficulty in winning the necessary support from two-thirds of the members.

Between now and late June,

there is expected to be no difficulty in winning the necessary support from two-thirds of the members.

Between now and late June,

there is expected to be no difficulty in winning the necessary support from two-thirds of the members.

Between now and late June,

there is expected to be no difficulty in winning the necessary support from two-thirds of the members.

Between now and late June,

there is expected to be no difficulty in winning the necessary support from two-thirds of the members.

Between now and late June,

there is expected to be no difficulty in winning the necessary support from two-thirds of the members.

Between now and late June,

there is expected to be no difficulty in winning the necessary support from two-thirds of the members.

Between now and late June,

there is expected to be no difficulty in winning the necessary support from two-thirds of the members.

Between now and late June,

there is expected to be no difficulty in winning the necessary support from two-thirds of the members.

Between now and late June,

there is expected to be no difficulty in winning the necessary support from two-thirds of the members.

Between now and late June,

there is expected to be no difficulty in winning the necessary support from two-thirds of the members.

Between now and late June,

there is expected to be no difficulty in winning the necessary support from two-thirds of the members.

Between now and late June,

there is expected to be no difficulty in winning the necessary support from two-thirds of the members.

Between now and late June,

there is expected to be no difficulty in winning the necessary support from two-thirds of the members.

Between now and late June,

there is expected to be no difficulty in winning the necessary support from two-thirds of the members.

Between now and late June,

there is expected to be no difficulty in winning the necessary support from two-thirds of the members.

Between now and late June,

there is expected to be no difficulty in winning the necessary support from two-thirds of the members.

Between now and late June,

there is expected to be no difficulty in winning the necessary support from two-thirds of the members.

Between now and late June,

there is expected to be no difficulty in winning the necessary support from two-thirds of the members.

Between now and late June,

there is expected to be no difficulty in winning the necessary support from two-thirds of the members.

Between now and late June,

there is expected to be no difficulty in winning the necessary support from two-thirds of the members.

Between now and late June,

there is expected to be no difficulty in winning the necessary support from two-thirds of the members.

Between now and late June,

there is expected to be no difficulty in winning the necessary support from two-thirds of the members.

Between now and late June,

there is expected to be no difficulty in winning the necessary support from two-thirds of the members.

Between now and late June,

there is expected to be no difficulty in winning the necessary support from two-thirds of the members.

Nuclear
talks
make
progress

We made some progress in five hours. In President Gorbachev's speech he set up a framework for long-range negotiations.

Stuart Strategic
dissertations after the schedule. His statement, by either side in the clear impression of being able to judge a vote being conducted in 13,000 polling stations.

The observer, who asked that his identity should not be disclosed, was a British member of the 60-strong delegation organized jointly by Democrat and Republican institutes in the United States. Its members from 19 countries were among 260 observers registered by noon yesterday to oversee an electorate of almost 16 million.

Co-leaders of the group, which yesterday formally met Mr Ion Iliescu, the interim President, are Mr Roy Hattersley, the deputy leader of the Labour Party, Senator Joseph Lieberman, and the former senator and American astronaut, Mr Harrison Schmitt.

Other British political personalities who will be observing the poll in different capacities include Dr Ian Paisley, of the Democratic Unionist Party, and Mrs Edwina Currie, the Conservative MP

Observers 'too late' to monitor intimidation

From Christopher Walker, Bucharest

A SENIOR Western official invited to Romania yesterday to monitor tomorrow's election said that the observers had arrived too late to assess the fairness of a campaign dominated by allegations of intimidation, and are too few to judge a vote being conducted in 13,000 polling stations.

"My impression is that the ruling National Salvation Front deliberately avoided giving the go-ahead for a full team of observers until it was certain about 10 days ago that it would win," the British observer said. Until then, there were real doubts that any of us would be permitted to come." He added: "If it becomes clear that the Front's conduct of the campaign was undemocratic, it will be much more difficult for us to prove that now. There is a real danger that we could be used to give our blessing for an exercise that was not conducted properly at all."

The number of observers, which officials say could rise to about 430 by the time polling begins at 6am tomorrow, compares with some 3,000 sent recently to Nicaragua, which has a much smaller electorate. Their first findings will be presented publicly on Monday, after they return to Bucharest from some 300 polling stations scattered around the country.

Controversy has dogged the campaign from the start, with right-wing and centre-right opposition parties presenting detailed lists of alleged violence and intimidation by supporters of the Front, which has been accused of manipulating the media. Already the conduct of the campaign has been sharply criticized by the US and British governments. Vitaly needed foreign aid from both Washington and the European Community is understood to be conditional on the observer teams giving their stamp of approval to the conduct of the poll.

The task facing the observers has been further complicated by the complexity of voting procedures, in a country which has had no experience of a freely conducted poll for over 50 years. With 72 parties competing, many of them little more than offshoots of the Front, the voting booklet handed out to voters in the Bucharest region will be 38 pages thick.

In a country obsessed by security, where informing for the Securitate was until recently a way of life for some 700,000 citizens, attempts have been made to ensure anonymity. Instead of using a pen, voters will use a specially provided rubber stamp, which could be re-used on a wide scale if fraud is being attempted.

The closing stages of the campaign saw allegations that outdated lists of voters had been used.

Voters will be choosing a new president from three candidates. Mr Iliescu has emerged as clear favourite. If no one secures 51 per cent of the total, there will be a re-run among the two front-runners. The voters will also be electing a House of Deputies and a Senate.

Leading article, page 11

TECHNICALLY, tomorrow's Romanian elections should be free and fair. Preparations for the ballot are under way and few complaints have been heard about them — as opposed to the general conduct of the campaign.

In the typical rural seat of Cluj, in Transylvania, the nerve centre of the elections will be the town hall computer room. Specialists have been running test programs through their new machines in readiness for the count. So far there have been no problems.

Mr Traian Ranga, the Mayor of Cluj, said that so far the schedule for the preparation for the elections had gone without a hitch. Each of Cluj county's 382 polling stations would be guarded outside by police, soldiers and civilian national guards, but they would not be allowed inside.

Meanwhile, at Cluj polling station number 63, Mr Alexandru Pavel was checking the names of those coming in, to verify that they were on the electoral roll.

An old man came in to confirm that he and his wife were on the list. She had "bolnav" written against her name. This meant that she was sick, in her case actually paralysed, and that a ballot box would be sent to her home.

For those who can vote normally, polling station 63 is almost complete, with light blue doors which can be locked from the inside. Each voter will be given three A4-size booklets. The one to vote for President is straightforward; it has only three names in it. However, to vote for deputies the voters must must leaf through a booklet comprising six pages of political parties, and for the senate five pages.

Mr Radu Borda, a member of the National Liberal Party, who is also on the local electoral board, said he did not think that the voting booklets were too complicated, as examples would be posted up in the polling stations telling people what to do. He said that in Cluj there had been no problems preparing for the elections, and only "minor" ones in the countryside.

Meanwhile, preparations for foreign observers are also well under way. Miss Ann Bradley from the National Republican Institute for International Affairs in Washington said that she was in Cluj to co-ordinate the activities of the six foreign observers who would come here. She said: "They will be put in three cars and not told where they are going." That would be decided by the foreign observers' own co-ordinating committee.

Mr Ioan Pop, chairman of the county's electoral board, added: "We will be putting all our resources at their disposal — but of course they will have to pay for it."

The deceptively named "Palace of the Republic" took a team of 17,000 workers eight years to build and is still some nine months

from completion. Earnings from gambling in hard currency are seen by Romanian Treasury officials as one possible escape route from the country's dire economic plight.

Other plans put forward, and rejected, have been to convert the grotesque, Stalin Gothic structure into a national museum or a university. Many ordinary Romanians find its dominance of the skyline obscene and would prefer it flattened. "It is an exact replica of the system itself," one said after a recent visit. "Nothing more than an overdone facade, totally devoid of content."

The deceptively named "Palace of the Republic" took a team of 17,000 workers eight years to build and is still some nine months

from completion. Earnings from gambling in hard currency are seen by Romanian Treasury officials as one possible escape route from the country's dire economic plight.

Other plans put forward, and rejected, have been to convert the grotesque, Stalin Gothic structure into a national museum or a university. Many ordinary Romanians find its dominance of the skyline obscene and would prefer it flattened. "It is an exact replica of the system itself," one said after a recent visit. "Nothing more than an overdone facade, totally devoid of content."

The deceptively named "Palace of the Republic" took a team of 17,000 workers eight years to build and is still some nine months

from completion. Earnings from gambling in hard currency are seen by Romanian Treasury officials as one possible escape route from the country's dire economic plight.

Other plans put forward, and rejected, have been to convert the grotesque, Stalin Gothic structure into a national museum or a university. Many ordinary Romanians find its dominance of the skyline obscene and would prefer it flattened. "It is an exact replica of the system itself," one said after a recent visit. "Nothing more than an overdone facade, totally devoid of content."

The deceptively named "Palace of the Republic" took a team of 17,000 workers eight years to build and is still some nine months

from completion. Earnings from gambling in hard currency are seen by Romanian Treasury officials as one possible escape route from the country's dire economic plight.

Other plans put forward, and rejected, have been to convert the grotesque, Stalin Gothic structure into a national museum or a university. Many ordinary Romanians find its dominance of the skyline obscene and would prefer it flattened. "It is an exact replica of the system itself," one said after a recent visit. "Nothing more than an overdone facade, totally devoid of content."

The deceptively named "Palace of the Republic" took a team of 17,000 workers eight years to build and is still some nine months

from completion. Earnings from gambling in hard currency are seen by Romanian Treasury officials as one possible escape route from the country's dire economic plight.

Other plans put forward, and rejected, have been to convert the grotesque, Stalin Gothic structure into a national museum or a university. Many ordinary Romanians find its dominance of the skyline obscene and would prefer it flattened. "It is an exact replica of the system itself," one said after a recent visit. "Nothing more than an overdone facade, totally devoid of content."

The deceptively named "Palace of the Republic" took a team of 17,000 workers eight years to build and is still some nine months

from completion. Earnings from gambling in hard currency are seen by Romanian Treasury officials as one possible escape route from the country's dire economic plight.

Other plans put forward, and rejected, have been to convert the grotesque, Stalin Gothic structure into a national museum or a university. Many ordinary Romanians find its dominance of the skyline obscene and would prefer it flattened. "It is an exact replica of the system itself," one said after a recent visit. "Nothing more than an overdone facade, totally devoid of content."

The deceptively named "Palace of the Republic" took a team of 17,000 workers eight years to build and is still some nine months

from completion. Earnings from gambling in hard currency are seen by Romanian Treasury officials as one possible escape route from the country's dire economic plight.

Other plans put forward, and rejected, have been to convert the grotesque, Stalin Gothic structure into a national museum or a university. Many ordinary Romanians find its dominance of the skyline obscene and would prefer it flattened. "It is an exact replica of the system itself," one said after a recent visit. "Nothing more than an overdone facade, totally devoid of content."

The deceptively named "Palace of the Republic" took a team of 17,000 workers eight years to build and is still some nine months

from completion. Earnings from gambling in hard currency are seen by Romanian Treasury officials as one possible escape route from the country's dire economic plight.

Other plans put forward, and rejected, have been to convert the grotesque, Stalin Gothic structure into a national museum or a university. Many ordinary Romanians find its dominance of the skyline obscene and would prefer it flattened. "It is an exact replica of the system itself," one said after a recent visit. "Nothing more than an overdone facade, totally devoid of content."

The deceptively named "Palace of the Republic" took a team of 17,000 workers eight years to build and is still some nine months

from completion. Earnings from gambling in hard currency are seen by Romanian Treasury officials as one possible escape route from the country's dire economic plight.

Other plans put forward, and rejected, have been to convert the grotesque, Stalin Gothic structure into a national museum or a university. Many ordinary Romanians find its dominance of the skyline obscene and would prefer it flattened. "It is an exact replica of the system itself," one said after a recent visit. "Nothing more than an overdone facade, totally devoid of content."

The deceptively named "Palace of the Republic" took a team of 17,000 workers eight years to build and is still some nine months

from completion. Earnings from gambling in hard currency are seen by Romanian Treasury officials as one possible escape route from the country's dire economic plight.

Other plans put forward, and rejected, have been to convert the grotesque, Stalin Gothic structure into a national museum or a university. Many ordinary Romanians find its dominance of the skyline obscene and would prefer it flattened. "It is an exact replica of the system itself," one said after a recent visit. "Nothing more than an overdone facade, totally devoid of content."

The deceptively named "Palace of the Republic" took a team of 17,000 workers eight years to build and is still some nine months

from completion. Earnings from gambling in hard currency are seen by Romanian Treasury officials as one possible escape route from the country's dire economic plight.

Other plans put forward, and rejected, have been to convert the grotesque, Stalin Gothic structure into a national museum or a university. Many ordinary Romanians find its dominance of the skyline obscene and would prefer it flattened. "It is an exact replica of the system itself," one said after a recent visit. "Nothing more than an overdone facade, totally devoid of content."

The deceptively named "Palace of the Republic" took a team of 17,000 workers eight years to build and is still some nine months

from completion. Earnings from gambling in hard currency are seen by Romanian Treasury officials as one possible escape route from the country's dire economic plight.

Other plans put forward, and rejected, have been to convert the grotesque, Stalin Gothic structure into a national museum or a university. Many ordinary Romanians find its dominance of the skyline obscene and would prefer it flattened. "It is an exact replica of the system itself," one said after a recent visit. "Nothing more than an overdone facade, totally devoid of content."

The deceptively named "Palace of the Republic" took a team of 17,000 workers eight years to build and is still some nine months

from completion. Earnings from gambling in hard currency are seen by Romanian Treasury officials as one possible escape route from the country's dire economic plight.

Other plans put forward, and rejected, have been to convert the grotesque, Stalin Gothic structure into a national museum or a university. Many ordinary Romanians find its dominance of the skyline obscene and would prefer it flattened. "It is an exact replica of the system itself," one said after a recent visit. "Nothing more than an overdone facade, totally devoid of content."

The deceptively named "Palace of the Republic" took a team of 17,000 workers eight years to build and is still some nine months

from completion. Earnings from gambling in hard currency are seen by Romanian Treasury officials as one possible escape route from the country's dire economic plight.

Other plans put forward, and rejected, have been to convert the grotesque, Stalin Gothic structure into a national museum or a university. Many ordinary Romanians find its dominance of the skyline obscene and would prefer it flattened. "It is an exact replica of the system itself," one said after a recent visit. "Nothing more than an overdone facade, totally devoid of content."

The deceptively named "Palace of the Republic" took a team of 17,000 workers eight years to build and is still some nine months

from completion. Earnings from gambling in hard currency are seen by Romanian Treasury officials as one possible escape route from the country's dire economic plight.

Other plans put forward, and rejected, have been to convert the grotesque, Stalin Gothic structure into a national museum or a university. Many ordinary Romanians find its dominance of the skyline obscene and would prefer it flattened. "It is an exact replica of the system itself," one said after a recent visit. "Nothing more than an overdone facade, totally devoid of content."

The deceptively named "Palace of the Republic" took a team of 17,000 workers eight years to build and is still some nine months

from completion. Earnings from gambling in hard currency are seen by Romanian Treasury officials as one possible escape route from the country's dire economic plight.

Other plans put forward, and rejected, have been to convert the grotesque, Stalin Gothic structure into a national museum or a university. Many ordinary Romanians find its dominance of the skyline obscene and would prefer it flattened. "It is an exact replica of the system itself," one said after a recent visit. "Nothing more than an overdone facade, totally devoid of content."

The deceptively named "Palace of the Republic" took a team of 17,000 workers eight years to build and is still some nine months

from completion. Earnings from gambling in hard currency are seen by Romanian Treasury officials as one possible escape route from the country's dire economic plight.

Other plans put forward, and rejected, have been to convert the grotesque, Stalin Gothic structure into a national museum or a university. Many ordinary Romanians find its dominance of the skyline obscene and would prefer it flattened. "It is an exact replica of the system itself," one said after a recent visit. "Nothing more than an overdone facade, totally devoid of content."

The deceptively named "Palace of the Republic" took a team of 17,000 workers eight years to build and is still some nine months

from completion. Earnings from gambling in hard currency are seen by Romanian Treasury officials as one possible escape route from the country's dire economic plight.

Other plans put forward, and rejected, have been to convert the grotesque, Stalin Gothic structure into a national museum or a university. Many ordinary Romanians find its dominance of the skyline obscene and would prefer it flattened. "It is an exact replica of the system itself," one said after a recent visit. "Nothing more than an overdone facade, totally devoid of content."

The deceptively named "Palace of the Republic" took a team of 17,000 workers eight years to build and is still some nine months

from completion. Earnings from gambling in hard currency are seen by Romanian Treasury officials as one possible escape route from the country's dire economic plight.

Other plans put forward, and rejected, have been to convert the grotesque, Stalin Gothic structure into a national museum or a university. Many ordinary Romanians find its dominance of the skyline obscene and would prefer it flattened. "It is an exact replica of the system itself," one said after a recent visit. "Nothing more than an overdone facade, totally devoid of content."

The deceptively named "Palace of the Republic" took a team of 17,000 workers eight years to build and is still some nine months

from completion. Earnings from gambling in hard currency are seen by Romanian Treasury officials as one possible escape route from the country's dire economic plight.

Other plans put forward, and rejected, have been to convert the grotesque, Stalin Gothic structure into a national museum or a university. Many ordinary Romanians find its dominance of the skyline obscene and would prefer it flattened. "It is an exact replica of the system itself," one said after a recent visit. "Nothing more than an overdone facade, totally devoid of content."

The deceptively named "Palace of the Republic" took a team of 17,000 workers eight years to build and is still some nine months

from completion. Earnings from gambling in hard currency are seen by Romanian Treasury officials as one possible escape route from the country's dire economic plight.

Other plans put forward, and rejected, have been to convert the grotesque, Stalin Gothic structure into a national museum or a university. Many ordinary Romanians find its dominance of the skyline obscene and would prefer it flattened. "It is an exact replica of the system itself," one said after a recent visit. "Nothing more than an overdone facade, totally devoid of content."

The deceptively named "Palace of the Republic" took a team of 17,000 workers eight years to build and is still some nine months

from completion. Earnings from gambling in hard currency are seen by Romanian Treasury officials as one possible escape route from the country's dire economic plight.

Other plans put forward, and rejected, have been to convert the grotesque, Stalin Gothic structure into a national museum or a university. Many ordinary Romanians find its dominance of the skyline obscene and would prefer it flattened. "It is an exact replica of the system itself," one said after a recent visit. "Nothing more than an overdone facade, totally devoid of content."

The deceptively named "Palace of the Republic" took a team of 17,000 workers eight years to build and is still some nine months

from completion. Earnings from gambling in hard currency are seen by Romanian Treasury officials as one possible escape route from the country's dire economic plight.

Other plans put forward, and rejected, have been to convert the grotesque, Stalin Gothic structure into a national museum or a university. Many ordinary Romanians find its dominance of the skyline obscene and would prefer it flattened. "It is an exact replica of the system itself," one said after a recent visit. "Nothing more than an overdone facade, totally devoid of content."

The deceptively named "Palace of the Republic" took a team of 17,000 workers eight years to build and is still some nine months

An imam in the House

Clifford Longley

Reform of the House of Lords has just been put on the Labour Party's agenda for its next turn at government, whenever that may be. But Lords reform might be enough to precipitate the disestablishment of the Church of England – and Labour might then have bitten off much more than it wants to chew.

The legal establishment of the church today consists of one great church-state symbol and several modest church-state ties. The symbol is the Crown, as head of state and supreme governor of the church. Apart from that, and the question of buildings and money, the remaining non-ceremonial bonds between church and state consist of the parliamentary veto over ecclesiastical legislation, the prime minister's role in the appointment of archbishops and bishops, and the presence of two archbishops and 24 senior bishops in the House of Lords.

In negotiating the 1976 agreement which resulted in the creation of the Crown Appointments Commission, the then prime minister, James Callaghan, insisted (with Conservative approval) that because bishops sat ex officio in the Lords, 10 Downing Street had to have a voice in who they were to be; otherwise a non-governmental body would have acquired the power to nominate members directly to the second chamber of Parliament. The commission therefore has to submit two names for each appointment to Downing Street, and the prime minister is free to select either.

If bishops were no longer to sit in the House of Lords, or if its membership were decided by a method other than heredity or political nomination, the Callaghan case for a political hand in choosing the church's chief pastors would disappear. Furthermore, the right of bishops to sit in the Lords is often cited as a quid pro quo for the right of either house to overrule the General Synod on church measures.

Aside from Lords reform, the prospect of disestablishment is still fairly remote, though the calm is deceptive. Politicians tend to say they do not want to disturb the arrangement unless the Church of England asks them to, and most churchmen seem to think there is still a rough balance of advantage and disadvantage. But loss of the right to put bishops in the House of Lords would remove one of the chief attractions: the quid without the quo. The church would then demand its release from the parliamentary veto, and the freedom to choose its own leaders.

Irrespective of more radical reform, there is already pressure – even from Anglican bishops – to broaden the base of the ecclesiastical presence in the Lords. Judging from their modest attendance records they find the Lords burdensome, and would gladly unload some of the work onto other denominations. Dr John Vincent, president of the Method-

...and moreover

MATTHEW PARRIS

A student journalist friend tells me I am doing everything wrong, for I have never learned about the "inverted pyramid". This is the basis of all successful newspaper writing, he explains.

"All the important part of what you want to say should come in the top few lines. From then on, importance should dwindle. Never say anything much towards the end."

The reason is that most readers only stay with you for a few sentences, then their attention wanders. So the wise writer, picturing himself shedding readers almost from the point where he first puts pen to paper, packs everything he can into the top. By the end he can expect almost no readers at all.

This strikes me as a self-justifying prophecy. Certainly if essays do run out of steam after 30 seconds' attention, readers will develop the mental habit of giving each article just that, and no more.

But why should we writers lie back and accept this? Should we not fight it – sprinkle the important bits quite randomly around, so readers learn the virtuous habit of ploughing patiently through the whole thing, never sure the Easter egg may not be concealed under the very last bush?

But then again, maybe the pyramid convention suits me; for by ignoring it myself, I can ensure that the significant part of my thinking is expressed in the section nobody reads. On the whole I would prefer this. On the occasions when I do try to say anything of consequence, I find my audience is irritated, baffled or bored. My secretary says my gravestone will be inscribed with the words "So what?" – yet I do enjoy revealing my thoughts. So revealing them in the passage no one reads offers the best of both worlds.

Have you gone yet? Good. Then it is safe to explain a theory I've been nursing for months.

I believe you can tell how stupid people are by the size and position of their ears.

This insight first came to me when walking half the length of a train to fetch some tea from the buffet car. Buffets are in the

middle, whereas I always sit in the front coach or the last, as we were not put on this earth to be indecisive.

Walking a train takes you through assorted carriages – including the smoking car – offering a snapshot of all sorts and conditions. Those who do their prizewin, the anti-smoking fascists have missed a devastatingly effective theme for their campaigns.

For it is increasingly plain that the nicotine habit is moving downmarket, and fast. Any smoker (and some of these are my friends) who is not a yob, mutant, inadequate, unemployed wheel-tapper or greasy-haired teenage slut in white stiletto heels, will know that such is the company he must now keep in trains. And some of these latter are my friends, too.

It is wonderful how war throws the classes together. Smoking cars these days are a tense coalition of that dwindling species: the educated smoker, shoulder to shoulder with the massed ranks of youths with nine empty lager cans, and women with tattoos – united, now, only by their craving for nicotine and their fear of the anti-smoking brigade.

It is a pitiful sight, as here and there, copies of *The Observer* open tremulously like endangered butterflies, among the staring flocks of the *Sunday Sport*. If the prohibitionists want a single statistic to spearhead the campaign I recommend, it should be the growing correlation between smoking and not washing your hair.

And thus it was that I first noticed how almost everyone in the smoking car had small ears, set low on their heads.

You probably think I'm joking. You probably think I'm trying to be provocative. My friends, the truth is provocative. Born in the smoking car, my theory has been carried to the world beyond, and refined down to apply to white males, among whom it seems to work best. Significantly more stupid men have tinier, lower-slung ears than the average. I challenge science to prove me wrong.

Are you still here? No? Good. You can come back, now, I've finished.

Michael Evans on the fears of social upheaval that would follow mass demobilization

No rushing Moscow on troop cuts

The state of mind of the Soviet military has become a key factor in the negotiations over arms reductions and the future security stance of a united Germany. Until their anxieties are resolved, rapid progress in either area is unlikely.

It is clear from the visit to the Soviet Union this week by Tom King, the Defence Secretary, that the Soviet high command hopes for a more sympathetic attitude from the West. It cannot have been coincidence that Moscow recently produced new figures – 27 million – of the number of Soviet citizens killed in the Second World War. That explains the refusal to countenance a united Germany's membership of Nato.

This may be an emotional response as Mr King suggested before he left Moscow yesterday, but in spite of the oft-repeated assurance that Nato is a defensive alliance, the Soviet command is apparently not yet convinced.

But memories of past wars are not alone responsible for the foot-

stamp by the Soviet military. There is a fundamental conflict of interest between their avowed support for Gorbachov's reforms and foreign policies and their desire to protect their privileged position, to guarantee their effectiveness as a military superpower and to ensure that the thousands of soldiers who are to be demobilized are well treated.

These conflicting loyalties have become an obsession. For example, there is an unmistakable mood of confusion at the Lenin military/political academy in Moscow, which was founded in 1919 to keep the revolutionary spirit alive in the hearts of Soviet soldiers. The academy instructs political officers (commissioners, as they used to be called), who are responsible for the Red Army's morale and discipline, both of which are under threat.

The officers who attended a lecture by Mr King at the academy earlier this week appeared genuinely amazed when he made no promise of British troop

withdrawals from West Germany in response to Soviet withdrawals from Eastern Europe. And because of years of anti-Western propaganda, his assurances of Nato's non-aggressive strategy fell on deaf ears.

The West may think that because of glasnost, which allows a British defence minister to travel around the Soviet Union and his Soviet counterpart to look round a British aircraft-carrier and to visit Aldershot, the commanders of the Red Army will at last grasp the point that they are not under threat. But glasnost, at least as understood by the Soviet high command, should not be overestimated. It is not yet ready to lay bare all its secrets. Although Mr King did enjoy an unprecedented demonstration of openness, it was confined to those areas in which the military knew it could shine. The visit to the airborne forces unit at Ryazan, south of Moscow, was an obvious example. The commander said the officer training school, where

cadets undergo a rigorous four-year course, has 16 applications for every place.

On the other side of the coin, however, the official number of draft-evaders in the Soviet Union is rising – from 1,044 in 1988 to 6,647 last year. The increase in draft evasion is particularly noticeable in the Leningrad military district, where it was 18 times greater than in the previous year, in the Baltic states (24 times), the Carpathian military district (10 times) and Kiev (23 times). In one recent article in the Soviet military press, it was claimed that many young people eligible for conscription are not physically fit and that many are suffering from various ailments. The sickness rate among conscripts in 1988 was 29 per cent higher than the 1981 figure.

Marshal Dmitry Yazov, promoted by Gorbachov from general, is taking an increasingly hardline position to protect the forces from what he sees as a growing public antipathy. Public respect for the armed services has

certainly declined dramatically, raising serious questions about use of the military to quell domestic unrest. A dramatic increase in harassment and crimes against military personnel in the streets has been reported. According to military officials, the number of officers murdered showed a dramatic increase from two in 1988 to 59 last year.

Although the internal issues are a matter for the Soviet Union, they present a problem for the West as well. For if the Russians are pressed too hard to sign a conventional arms treaty which limits them down to a rigid implementation programme – in line with President Bush's proposal for a 1993 timetable – the Soviet military hierarchy will be unable to cope with the huge demobilization required under the planned agreement.

The Soviet Union will need more than three years to reduce its forces in Eastern Europe to 195,000. That is one concession the West can afford.

When our past is all around us, how can we ignore it?

Raphael Samuel believes those who want to play down British history as jingoistic do a disservice to children – indigenous and new arrivals alike

If there is a single issue which has propelled history into public debate, it is the nationality question, which, under the impact of New Commonwealth immigration and settlement and the European Community, is increasingly replacing the social question as the storm-centre of British politics. For Conservatives, national history is a way of restoring a lost sense of the indigenous. History, in their view, will instil in children a greater pride in being British, and a greater sense of continuity in national life.

On the left, the very idea of a national history is suspect, being said to exclude ethnic minorities and to flatter national conceits. The privileged position given to British history in the National Curriculum has been denounced by Labour's spokesman as "jingoist", and some fear a return to insularity and ethnocentrism.

Teachers and scholars engaged in "history from below" have attempted to sidestep the issue of nation, by advancing the claims of local and regional studies, or culture and community – "lived experience". In schools, "New" history has by-passed national history, by concentrating on the one hand on the modern world and, on the other, initiating children into the subject through the domestic and the familiar.

The government's History Working Party, shares some of these inhibitions. Though bending to the minister's requirement that the time devoted to history lessons to British history should be increased from 40 to 50 per cent, it is understandably more concerned to balance competing claims on the new syllabus, and to maintain a pluralist perspective.

Yet whether we like it or not, history is a national question. Even in local history, the nation remains an inescapable frame of reference. Nor can the history of minorities escape it, since it is in opposition to majorities that minorities are defined. Peculiar double-standards are at work among those who advocate a

history which starts from the familiar, and yet jib when the nation is in question, advocating instead a "global" view. Moreover, even if the idea of the nation is expelled from the classroom, it will remain potent in the playground and, less inhibited, on television and the football terraces. If historians refuse to teach it, plenty of others will volunteer.

Does one have to be indigenous to engage with the national past? Must such a study alienate those whose ancestral roots lie elsewhere? On the contrary, one can argue that there are advantages in a study of history from the perspective of an outsider, and that it involves a questioning of the taken-for-granted (Asians, for example, may question whether the British are a Christian people). History opens many more doors than it closes. Far from repelling outsiders, it has often provided strangers with signposts. Some of our major national histories have been written by foreigners. The spirit of place may be fundamental to a sense of history, but as in literature and art, it can owe as much to the sense of exile or exclusion as to territorial roots.

If British history is to be restored to the curriculum, it should be for pedagogic not patriotic reasons: it is the country which children know best (they are not obliged to love it), whose language they speak (even if they are bilingual) and whose literature they read. To be ignorant of the past of the country in which one lives is to be politically and culturally disenfranchised.

There is no reason why British history need be inward-looking. The earliest printed histories of this country were concerned to establish a European pedigree for national existence. Contemporary history, if it is to take account of the past of the country in which one lives is to be politically and culturally disenfranchised.

There is no reason why British history need be inward-looking. The earliest printed histories of this country were concerned to establish a European pedigree for national existence. Contemporary history, if it is to take account of the past of the country in which one lives is to be politically and culturally disenfranchised.

Instead of (or as well as) considering the development of Britain as a "world power", it might be more profitable to consider this country as part of a larger whole, an off-shore island, say, in medieval Europe, which is how it appears on Hereford Cathedral's Mappa Mundi.

America would be as pertinent as Europe when following the fortunes of British Protestantism. Above all – if only to account for the dramatic effect of immigration – British history should treat the history of Empire as integral to our island story.

The very uncertainties surrounding British national identity today might make study of national history the more rewarding and demanding. The collapse of British power gives us a novel vantage point for understanding our national history. Trafalgar Day might be less pertinent than the fall of Singapore, the invention

of the spinning mule in the 1960s.

Instead of (or as well as) considering the development of Britain as a "world power", it might be more profitable to consider this country as part of a larger whole, an off-shore island, say, in medieval Europe, which is how it appears on Hereford Cathedral's Mappa Mundi.

America would be as pertinent as Europe when following the fortunes of British Protestantism. Above all – if only to account for the dramatic effect of immigration – British history should treat the history of Empire as integral to our island story.

The very uncertainties surrounding British national identity today might make study of national history the more rewarding and demanding. The collapse of British power gives us a novel vantage point for understanding our national history. Trafalgar Day might be less pertinent than the fall of Singapore, the invention

of the spinning mule in the 1960s.

The Guild enjoys, if that is the right word, almost united opposition from other media unions.

Alan Sapper, the ACTT leader, says: "The Directors Guild is a breakaway from us. It has no

negotiating rights with anybody. It

should have stayed as a pressure group, it promised us it would."

The author is an editor of *History Workshop Journal* and convenor of the conference on "History, the Nation and the Schools" at Ruskin College, Oxford, today.

of everyman" the unifying thread.

The social question has profoundly democratized the study of the national culture, giving the dignity of history to ordinary people and everyday life; but if it enlarged the subject matter of history in many respects, it narrowed it in others. It had little to say about international relations, which were left to students of diplomacy; it usually ignored the history of Empire, and by giving a privileged place to protest movements, it was apt to begin with enclosure and the Industrial Revolution.

Were the national question made a unifying thread of the history syllabus, it would take us back to much earlier pasts, asking children to join geologists and the archaeologists in considering the original conditions of island settlement and the permanent ecological features of national life. It would need to follow the record of overseas colonization and conquest, while at the same time showing how the nation was composed of warring and competing parts, showing such divisions as those between Celts and Anglo-Saxons, North and South, Church and Chapel, town and country. If it were concerned with heritage, it would need to consider the arts in their international relations as well as indigenous movements.

Above all, with the gathering movement for secession in Scotland and with the civil war in Ulster now in its 22nd year, with the powers of government and the sovereignty of Parliament in question, the study of British history should from the start emphasize its own problematic nature.

"Nation" is a harsher word than either "culture" or "society", and for socialists like myself many of its associations are negative. But it is an inescapable part of the historian's lexicon, and has the merit of unifying phenomena which otherwise tend to be considered in isolation. It has space for loyalties as well as material interests; hatreds and fears as well as the progress of reform. Since the nation confronts us each time we open the newspapers, we should not avert our eyes from it when we turn to the record of the past.

The very uncertainties surrounding British national identity today might make study of national history the more rewarding and demanding. The collapse of British power gives us a novel vantage point for understanding our national history. Trafalgar Day might be less pertinent than the fall of Singapore, the invention

of the spinning mule in the 1960s.

The Guild enjoys, if that is the

right word, almost united opposition from other media unions.

Alan Sapper, the ACTT leader, says: "The Directors Guild is a breakaway from us. It has no

negotiating rights with anybody. It

should have stayed as a pressure group, it promised us it would."

It is poaching and insists that it is merely responding to inquiries from members about dual membership.

The Guild enjoys,

if that is the

right word,

almost united opposition

from other media unions.

Alan Sapper, the ACTT leader, says:

"The Directors Guild is a

breakaway from us.

It has no

negotiating rights with anybody. It

should have stayed as a pressure group, it promised us it would."

See who's looking on. Romania's first proper elections for 53 years have brought together an unlikely alliance of British MPs in Bucharest as observers. One of the first to arrive yesterday in the hope of ensuring fair play was the Rev Ian Paisley, who flew in after campaigning in the Upper Bann by-election, where armed police guarded the ballot boxes. He is being joined by Edwin Currie, Roy Hattersley and Labour whip Robert Wareing. Dozens of peers and MPs applied to the Inter-Parliamentary Union to act as observers for tomorrow's poll.

With accusations of gerrymandering by the ruling National Salvation Front thick in the air, this unlikely gang of four might, strangely, find common cause.



uts



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

ROMANIA ON THE RACK

A miracle may yet save Romania from the misfortune of a decisive victory for the ruling National Salvation Front at tomorrow's general election. The Front, in the guise of the country's "interim government", has fought a vicious campaign marshalling behind it the whole former communist apparatus which, with dependants, accounts for some 5 per cent of the population.

In Bucharest and in the multi-ethnic parts of Transylvania to the west, where the rising against Ceausescu began, the Front emerged in its true colours as the vampire of democracy. Further from the international limelight, in the remoter regions of Moldavia, the Front made it almost impossible for the two main opposition parties, the National Liberal Party and the National Peasants' Party, to campaign.

The opposition has itself made several serious mistakes, beginning with the decision to revive two old parties which were widely discredited half a century ago. Before and after the war, the Liberals and Peasants failed to hold the line against totalitarians, both fascist and communist. In 1990 their successors again failed to unite against the common foe. Romania may now reap the consequences.

The opposition presidential candidates — Mr Radu Campeanu of the Liberals and Mr Ion Ratiu of the Peasants — are themselves septuagenarians, and may have hoped to revive old loyalties among the generation which remembers the pre-communists. Any such advantage was outweighed by the ease with which the Front's leaders, President Ion Iliescu and Mr Petre Roman, the Prime Minister, have been able to divide their opponents.

They have presented Mr Ratiu, a wealthy London émigré until the revolution, as a reincarnation of the hoary old capitalist stereotype. Mr Ratiu, albeit an untainted anti-communist, was probably wrong to allow his name to go forward. As an exile, he was certain to arouse mixed feelings in a country which has suffered as much as Romania did under Ceausescu. In the comparable situation of 1945, Thomas Mann declined to let himself be installed by the victorious Allies as the figurehead of a democratic Germany. When the writer returned from Californian exile, he was dismayed by the hostility he encountered. Nations usually reward their Jeremiahs only posthumously.

Towards Mr Campeanu the Front has alternated between physical intimidation, the unifying thread question has polarized the study of history to ordinary everyday life, but if a subject matter of many respects, it had little international respect, it was left to students of it, it usually ignored Empire, and by legend place to prove it was apt to begin and the Industrial

are the national question made a unifying thread of the nation's symbols, it would make much earlier part of its geological make-up in consideration conditions of ancient and the prehistoric features of ancient would need to follow of overseas colonisation, while it is showing how it is composed of various parts, showing one as those better Anglo-Saxon, Non-Church and Church country. If it was with heritage, it was under the art in the al reactions as well as governors.

With the gathering for recession it is with the civil war in its 12th year, the of government and of Parliament in study of British history of the start or when informed nature.

It is a harsh world to live in, and we must make do with what we have.

It is a world of uncertainty, and we must make do with what we have.

It is a world of uncertainty, and we must make do with what we have.

It is a world of uncertainty, and we must make do with what we have.

It is a world of uncertainty, and we must make do with what we have.

It is a world of uncertainty, and we must make do with what we have.

It is a world of uncertainty, and we must make do with what we have.

It is a world of uncertainty, and we must make do with what we have.

It is a world of uncertainty, and we must make do with what we have.

It is a world of uncertainty, and we must make do with what we have.

It is a world of uncertainty, and we must make do with what we have.

It is a world of uncertainty, and we must make do with what we have.

It is a world of uncertainty, and we must make do with what we have.

It is a world of uncertainty, and we must make do with what we have.

It is a world of uncertainty, and we must make do with what we have.

It is a world of uncertainty, and we must make do with what we have.

It is a world of uncertainty, and we must make do with what we have.

It is a world of uncertainty, and we must make do with what we have.

It is a world of uncertainty, and we must make do with what we have.

It is a world of uncertainty, and we must make do with what we have.

It is a world of uncertainty, and we must make do with what we have.

It is a world of uncertainty, and we must make do with what we have.

It is a world of uncertainty, and we must make do with what we have.

It is a world of uncertainty, and we must make do with what we have.

It is a world of uncertainty, and we must make do with what we have.

It is a world of uncertainty, and we must make do with what we have.

which is reported to have terrified him sufficiently to deter him from leaving the capital in the later stages of the campaign, and friendly overtures designed to compromise the Liberals with their supporters, who have bravely demonstrated against the Government in the squares of Bucharest and Timisoara. In the televised debate between the three presidential candidates broadcast on Thursday, Mr Campeanu appeared not to exclude the idea of a coalition with the Front.

The arrival this week of foreign observers ought to ensure fair play at the polling booths. With hindsight, there is little doubt that these scrutineers should have been present throughout the campaign. A concerted effort by the European Community to induce Mr Iliescu to submit to a strict monitoring regime might have had a real impact on the result.

The official Romanian media tried last weekend to misrepresent *The Times'* criticism of the belated British diplomatic protest as acquiescence in the Front's own denials of electoral malpractice. Such mendacity has typified its conduct ever since Ceausescu's overthrow. Official denials of the anti-Hungarian pogrom in Targu Mures in March inspire no confidence.

That is one reason for the West, for all Romania's neighbours, and for Hungary in particular, to treat any future government dominated by the Front with extreme caution. Another is the Front's economic platform.

Messrs Iliescu and Roman, once communists in the pro-Moscow minority of Ceausescu's party, now present themselves as straightforward Romanian nationalists. They promise job security and economic gradualism, in superficially attractive contrast to the economic shock treatment offered by the opposition. The Front has deliberately omitted to explain to a population still traumatized by the ordeal of Ceausescu's rule that foreign investors will refuse to come to Romania's rescue, unless its government is prepared to scrap not merely Ceausescu's most atrocious excesses, but his entire economic system.

The offers of continuity of employment to tens of thousands of state-employed workers in government, the security services and bankrupt "commercial" enterprises may win elections. They do not rescue economies. Mr Iliescu's advisers talk of introducing "market mechanisms" in three years time. Romania cannot wait that long.

CHANGING THE GUARD

Further questions will be asked about security at military bases in this country when the Commons defence committee reports next week. Instead of calling, as is expected, for much stricter vetting of private security firms hired by the Ministry of Defence, the committee should ask why Whitehall uses private companies in the first place.

The subject is inevitably sensitive. MPs began their four-month investigation in the shadow of last year's bomb outrage at Deal. Their report will follow hard upon two more IRA attacks in London. Policy should not be swayed by the emotion which such atrocities engender. The Government is right, for instance, to reject the use of security guards at Army careers offices and other "soft" IRA targets in town centres. To seal the Army off from the public would be to concede defeat to terrorism.

There are two compelling reasons why the policy of contracting out security should end, or at least be substantially modified. The first is that for the Armed Forces, trained to guard the country, to hire commercial firms to protect them is an absurdity. The second is that they could do the job better.

Arguments in favour of the practice have rested essentially on cost-effectiveness. Guarding MoD establishments is boring routine. Passes have to be checked, briefcases searched and the undersides of vehicles examined. The work, it is alleged, hardly requires a commando's training. It is a waste to release fighting men from the central front in Germany.

The job definition should be rethought, recognizing that constant vigilance requires people who are trained for it. Civilian security services have become a burgeoning industry.

SURFEIT OF DINOSAUR

The mystery is solved at last. Dr Thomas Wdowiak, of the University of Alabama, has revealed that the dinosaurs died out not because of gamma-rays, or climatic changes, or holes in the ozone layer, or even stupidity. They died of food poisoning. Mad dinosaur disease did them in.

Apparently there was an immense quantity of nickel lying about at the time. The beasties grazed off plants contaminated with the stuff, and before you could say "Another lousy film coming up" they all keeled over. (Other experts are said to be "sceptical of the idea", some no doubt certain that the cause was copper, not nickel, others pinning their faith to aluminium, and others insisting that it must have been a dodgy oyster).

Considering that the dinosaurs were trotting about at least 100 million years ago, they have an annoying habit of getting under the feet of contemporary passers-by. Another American academic, presumably determined not to be upstaged by Dr Wdowiak, has announced that he has found the bones of dinosaurs which were only two or three feet high.

P. T. Barnum, the great showman, used to publish advertisements claiming that his exhibition included "The tallest dwarf in the world". Customers rolled up in large numbers only to find a perfectly ordinary six-foot man sitting in a chair. That surely must cause suspicion to fall on the American diggers. After all, the bones of a two-foot dinosaur could easily be confused with those of a reasonably-sized Labrador. If the Prof blows his trumpet a little too loudly, he may find himself being labelled with an umbrella for disturbing Fido's last resting-place.

Those who peddle their services possess uneven quality and experience. There is general recognition of the need for official scrutiny. But the Armed Forces would do better to take direct charge of military security, rather than continue to subcontract a vital area of operations, even under tighter controls.

The Ministry of Defence has begun to acknowledge this. It has recently confirmed that it is considering setting up its own special force, whose role would be to guard MoD establishments. This goes some way to answering the criticisms. But there is no evidence it needs a new body.

The ministry already employs its own police force, in addition to more than 300,000 servicemen. The recent Defence Estimates, moreover, committed it to spending £12 million on improving security at its military bases. To impose a fresh layer of bureaucracy on a budget which is already under strain hardly sounds like a sensible option.

The Government should revert to using servicemen to maintain security at their bases and MoD police at softer non-military targets. The argument that this would waste the energies of soldiers required to protect Western Europe has lost much of its force in recent months, and internal security against terrorism of all kinds has become a priority area for the forces.

After two decades on the streets of Northern Ireland, British soldiers have acquired an expertise which few civilian personnel could match. Recent events suggest that the best use should be made of these skills. To continue to hire private firms is not only unnecessary; it could be counter-productive. The vigilance required in standing guard is in itself a form of military training.

THAMES SALMON

Even if they are real dinosaurs, they are something of a disappointment. Most people like their dinosaurs to be gigantic creatures of the utmost ferocity; there would be little interest in a dinosaur called Diddums which trotted along on a lead and was fed Winalot biscuits by its doting owner.

Nor does that exhaust this week's dinosaur news. Someone on the Isle of Wight, of all peaceful spots to start a row, has excavated not a dinosaur, nor even a dinosaur's femur, nor yet a half-chewed lump of nickel, but a dinosaur's footprint. He dug it out with a chisel, and it took him hours, but the National Trust, which owns the land on which the dinosaur stepped in the mud a hundred million years ago, insists that it belongs to them.

Similes are flying. The Trust says that it is like taking a picture from one of their stately homes, whereas the man with the shovel maintains that it is like picking up shell on the seashore, and in between there is a faction likening it to a fossil. There can be no doubt that the monster was the full-sized variety, not the lap-dinosaur kind; no doubt the Isle of Wight excavator would have spurned an offer of a footprint made by the miniature variety.

Perhaps a kind of dinosaur Crusts could be set up to settle all such matters; the committee could rule on the authenticity of the little ones and the ownership of the giant footprint. But it would be a very brave committee that dared to give an authoritative ruling on the cause of the dinosaurs' disappearance. Here's a disturbing thought: when we have disappeared, will there be a similar debate on what finished us off? Reading too much about dinosaurs, probably.

Britain's role in South Africa

From Sir Peter Fawcett

Sir, The two key men in South Africa, President de Klerk and Mr Mandela, are to have talks with Mrs Thatcher. She will be in a position, for a brief moment, to influence events in their country.

A constituent assembly which could serve as an interim government, on the Namibian model, is not necessary in South Africa; nor is it feasible on the ANC's (African National Congress) terms, which involve elections on a non-racial universal franchise. The immense preparatory task of compiling a voters' role would unduly delay the start of substantive negotiations on the new Constitution.

All that is required is a national convention, similar to that convened in 1906 to work out the details of a new Constitution, but constituted from representative leaders of the different political groups.

The ANC look forward to a time when they themselves, organised as a political party, may assume power in a united South Africa, but until there is a new dispensation after a constitutional settlement their prospects of doing so depend on the established government, the only power in the land capable of maintaining the integrity of the State. Without that power, deep-seated tribal and political conflicts could quickly lead to chaos.

In view of the probable duration of the main negotiations on the Constitution there is an urgent need for an interim government which will involve the blacks themselves in the task of creating a non-racial State and removing the vestiges of apartheid.

The tripartite Parliament should be replaced as soon as possible by a single chamber, which would include all races, early elections being achieved by means of communal representation.

The proportion of the different racial groups would be a matter for negotiation, but in view of the need for early agreement, this would be a time for an offer to the blacks of sufficient representation in Parliament and ministerial responsibilities in government to ensure their support.

Yours faithfully,
R. P. FAWCETT,
Dochart House,
Killin,
Perthshire.
May 17.

From Professor Antony Flew

Sir, Professor Raymond Plant is very quick to reject Charles Murray's contention that welfare bene-

Fairer treatment of the 'underclass'

From the Director of the Runnymede Trust

Sir, Professor Plant ("Uplifting the underclass", May 15) makes some important points and misses others. Rarely have academia and the media been so seduced by a concept as sloppy and unsophisticated as that of the "underclass". Its continued use may produce more fog than light.

Men — and women — have been asking for money at railway stations in London for as long as I can remember. What is important, however, is the increase in young beggars in inner London. When I founded Centrepoint Soho, the all-night centre for young homeless 21 years ago, we saw very few young beggars although the signs of the increase in the numbers of the marginal were clear. The appearance of young beggars has been swift and dramatic.

In the USA, study of the underclass has become a highly-profitable activity. But Britain differs markedly from New York, Chicago, and Detroit in that the bulk of the "underclass" are not black. Yet the warning signs are clear. As many black people have begun to ascend the ladder of affluence, the treads towards entrenchment of deprivation in districts of residential segregation have become sharper. The gulf between the black bourgeoisie and the black poor has become wider. But again what is new? The black middle class is following the white majority.

We are talking not only about "the poor", but about those who feel they have no stake in society, who are non-citizens, and have lost their human dignity. Surely we need to be asking questions not about how to "uplift the underclass" but about what features of our society have led to such dehumanisation and oppression. And this must mean looking beyond poverty to the central values of the powerful. As R. H. Tawney wrote, what thoughtful rich people call the problem of poverty, thoughtful poor people call the problem of riches. Ought we not to be starting to debate further up the scale — with the "overclass"?

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH LEECH,
Director,
The Runnymede Trust,
11 Princes Street, El.
May 15.

From Professor Antoni Flew

Sir, Your report (May 14) on the rejection by Mr Iliescu of any interference by the British Government in the affairs of Romania highlights the complexities of the current situation.

I visited there in April and preached in a church in Cluj-Kolozsvár on Palm Sunday. I was able to discuss current needs with a number of people. Clearly basic food and other aid and medical equipment is still urgently needed, but much is already being done to meet this need. Beyond this there is longer-term need to help with programmes of church and community reconstruction.

There is a need for reconciliation in a situation where nationality, religion and culture are closely intertwined. Those countries that are keen to offer the hand of friendship to Romania are right in urging the interim Government — and the Government that will be elected in May — to ensure that ethnic violence and intimidations of political parties are ended. It is to be hoped that the misunderstandings of the past can be forgotten and a new era of reconciliation begin.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN JANSEN-BERG,
Barnes Close,
Chadwick Manor Estate,
Nr Bromsgrove, Worcestershire.
May 14.

From Dr G. B. R. Feilden

Sir, The latest oil slick incident off the south-west coast (reports, May 14, 16, 17) shows once more the inadequacy of present arrangements for dealing with such occurrences. It took four days before a concerted attack was mounted on the slick, and the action then taken failed to prevent oil reaching the shore.

Proposals of which I am joint inventor, have recently been made for a radically different approach to the containment of oil slicks. These involve the dropping from a low-flying aircraft or helicopter of a radio-controlled skimmer, which could be at the site of the disaster within an hour or two of its occurrence. The skimmer would float on the surface of the sea and as it was propelled through the slick its V-shaped booms would collect the oil into a replaceable reservoir at their base

from which the oil would subsequently be recovered.

For transport, the skimmer would be carried folded, and would be inflated after leaving the aircraft — in exactly the same way as lifejackets are. So far this proposal has not aroused any interest amongst the equipment manufacturers whom we have approached though its cost would not be excessive.

The method of dealing with oil slicks which I have just described will enable the vast majority of the slick to be recovered before it has become emulsified with sea water. Moreover, this invention is a case of "prevention being better than cure" in that it provides a method of collecting and removing the spilled oil, so preventing at source the severe ecological damage which we have seen with past oil slicks.

Yours faithfully,
G. B. R. FEILDEN,
Verlands,
Painswick,

ANNOUNCEMENTS & PERSONAL

Then the Lord stretched out his hand, touched my face and said unto me: "Listen, I am giving you the words you need." —Jeremiah 1:9

BIRTHS

BROWN — On May 13th, at St Helens Hospital, Carlisle, to Helen (nee) and Alrick, a son, Christopher Keith Lewiston.

BROWNS — On May 17th, to Sandra (nee) Clegg and Ian, a daughter, Katie.

CAREY — On May 17th, to Sibylle and Charles, a daughter, a sister for Eileen.

EDWARDS — On May 19th, to Helen (nee) and Richard, a son, Christopher Keith Lewiston.

EVANS — On May 17th, to Richard and Elizabeth, a son, Adam Edward, a healthy baby 11½ ozs.

EVANS — On May 16th, to Margaret and Michael, a son, James Robert, a brother for William and Edward.

EVANS — On May 10th 1990, to Michael and Elizabeth, a son, Barry, a son Daniel, Richard.

FALCONER HALL — On March 26th, to Sally Davies and Simon Falconer Hall, a son, Thomas James Falconer.

FURNESS — On May 5th, to Lindsay (nee Dolby) and Ian, a daughter, Lucy Jane.

HAYES — On May 15th, to John and Karen Hayes, a son, Thomas Edward.

HEDDERING — On May 15th, to Elizabeth (nee Swan) and Simon Heddering, a son, Thomas Peter de Strange.

HUNT — On April 30th 1990, to Alison (nee) and Craig, a daughter, Anna.

JOHNSON — On April 30th, to Ruth (nee Quick) and Tom, a son, Oliver Patrick Michael.

LITTON — On May 10th, to Fiona (nee Coodey) and Charles, a son, Michael.

MANNASSERI — On May 16th 1990, to Ruth (nee Gali) and Anoush, a daughter, Chloe.

MORRISON — On May 15th, at Princeton Hospital, New Jersey, to Camilla (nee Goddard) and Charles, a daughter for James Michael.

NICOL — On April 21st, to Martyn (nee Scott) and Andy, a daughter, Francesca.

PELLETTIER — On May 16th 1990, to Ruth (nee Gali) and Anoush, a daughter, Chloe.

SCOBREY — On May 17th, in Sydney, to Anne (nee) and David, a son, Peter, a daughter, Emily Catherine, a sister for Hans.

STRANGER — On April 27th, to Caroline (nee) Peter, and their daughter, Khatua Chalo.

WELLS — On May 11th, to Vicki (nee Marshall) and David, a son, Michael, a daughter, Louise.

YOUNG — On May 12th to Sally (nee Cooke) and Nicholas, a son, Cyprian Alexander, a sister for Charlotte.

DEATHS

ARDAGH — On May 18th 1990, peacefully, Joyce, wife of the late F.D. Ardagh (I.F.A.), beloved mother and grandmother.

ARTHUR — Funeral service to be held at Despatched, Park Crematorium on Wednesday May 23rd at 12.30 pm.

BENTWICH — On May 17th, after a short illness, in the care of Woodspring, Bradford, Yorkshire, Mrs Lovell House, Sunningdale, Widow of Fred Bailey R.A.F. and dear sister of Major General Sir John Bailey.

BENNETT — Richard Alcock Colend, aged 88, husband of the late Nedie, died on May 11th.

BENNETT — Great-grandmother.

BENNETT — Funeral Service on Thursday May 24th at 2pm.

BENNETT — Doreen, widow of Doreen.

Boeing 737s checked after control wheel breaks off

From Susan Ellicott, Washington

BOEING, which includes British Airways as one of its largest customers, has been carrying out a 72-hour inspection of three newer models of its popular 737 aircraft after a missing pin caused a control wheel to come off in the hands of a co-pilot flying for a West German airline.

The incident was on board a West German 737-400 — the same type of aircraft that crashed on the M1 at Kegworth. The US regulatory

body for the airline industry, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), ordered the inspection after Boeing found a cotter pin missing in a second twin-engine 737 being prepared for delivery.

A cotter pin is a split pin which attaches the control wheel to a steering column. The pin fastens the wheel by spreading its ends after insertion in similar way to some paper clips.

Boeing said the West German aircraft landed safely after its pilot took over on a second set of controls. It also found damage to the threads of a bolt used in the control-wheel configuration.

The reported incidents are likely to do little to help the aircraft manufacturer's image as it struggles to rid itself of problems on its production line in recent years. Last year, the company carried out a world-wide inspection of some models after the discovery of flaws in fire-extinguisher systems. More than 2,000 separate defects were found on almost every Boeing model.

At the time, the FAA expressed concern to Boeing in a letter that "inadequacies in several areas of the company, including basic design of electronic components, manufacturing, production inspection and suppliers" might have led to "unsafe conditions".

Boeing says it has taken measures to improve the quality of aircraft coming off the production line.

In Britain checks were ordered by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) which affected British Airways, British Midland and a number of holiday airlines, including Britannia and Air UK Leisure.

They are likely to discuss the importance of promoting renewed foreign investment in South Africa after the years of economic isolation.

The British government strongly supports President de Klerk's reform programme and is particularly interested in Pretoria's efforts to harness the private sector, both nationally and internationally.

De Klerk's vision of the future

By Michael Knipe
Diplomatic Correspondent

PRESIDENT de Klerk of South Africa spelled out his vision of a post-apartheid South Africa yesterday at a series of meetings with senior British financial, political and media figures at the South African embassy in London.

Mr de Klerk, who is visiting Chequers today for discussions with Mrs Thatcher, is promoting the view that sanctions are yesterday's issue and attempting to focus attention on South Africa's importance as a potential powerhouse of economic development in Southern Africa as a whole.

It is a view with which Mrs Thatcher is much in sympathy. With them at Chequers will be Mr Piki Botha, the South African Foreign Minister, and Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary.

They are likely to discuss the importance of promoting renewed foreign investment in South Africa after the years of economic isolation.

The British government strongly supports President de Klerk's reform programme and is particularly interested in Pretoria's efforts to harness the private sector, both nationally and internationally.

Gateshead festival becomes a garden of hope

ALISTAIR GRANT



A LINDISFARNE monk, part of the Durham County Council contribution to the National Garden Festival in Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, receiving a final touch of paint. The festival, opened by the Princess Royal yesterday, brought hope of new life for the 200-acre site (Adam Fresco writes).

The £60 million festival has given jobs to more than 2,000 and has secured commitments for rejuvenating the once desolate area. The land has been reclaimed from derelict workings and railway sidings and when the festival ends in October it will be used for housing,

commercial development and parkland. The festival is based along one mile of the Tyne; highlights include a celebrity cricket match, power-boat grand prix, Chinese dragon boat racing, fireworks, music and art.

Opening the 157-day festival the Princess Royal, its patron, said: "During my last visit I saw the bare bones of the site, which was fascinating in its way, but this is quite a revelation. It is worth remembering what nature can do with a little help from man in improving what was just a man-made vista before."

The first garden festival was held in

Liverpool in 1984 and was built on a former rubbish tip; it attracted more than three million visitors. The Merseyside Development Corporation adopted the idea from festivals abroad and made it a big success. Once the festival ended houses were built on 80 acres of the 125-acre site with the rest being left as parkland, already developed by the festival.

The Glasgow Garden Festival, which took place throughout the summer of 1988, was regarded as the most successful, attracting a record 4.25 million visitors. The five-month festival cost £42 million to stage on the

southern bank of the River Clyde; in spite of bad weather it managed to inject £100 million into the Scottish economy. Since the event, however, the site has largely lain waste after the clearing operation.

A retail and leisure park that created hundreds of jobs now stands on the site of the 1986 garden festival in the centre of Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire. The site was cleared for the festival four years ago and included a canalside marina. After the festival the council leased the site to a property company, which developed the retail and leisure park.



Detail from Renoir's "Le Bassin à la Grenouillère"

Art lover's £94 million spending spree

Continued from page 1

he said matter-of-factly. "That's for my garden."

• NEW YORK: The sale of the Renoir came as an anticlimax at Sotheby's New York on Thursday night (Sarah Jane Checkland writes). Like compulsive gamblers, the crowd wanted to repeat that heady moment on Tuesday when Van Gogh's "Dr Gachet" smashed the world record to clapping gasps and roars of approval.

At first, it appeared that the auctioneer, Mr John Marion,

was conducting bids between a telephone candidate and the chandelier. He looked emphatically at a colleague to his right, receiving bids by telephone, and then looked somewhat vaguely into the near distance. The massed ranks of the world's press craned forward from their pens at the side in the hope of glimpsing Mr Kobayashi.

They remembered that as he had struggled past the crowd to his limousine on Park Avenue on Tuesday night, he had pledged to

return. But on Thursday there was no apparent movement in the massive hall.

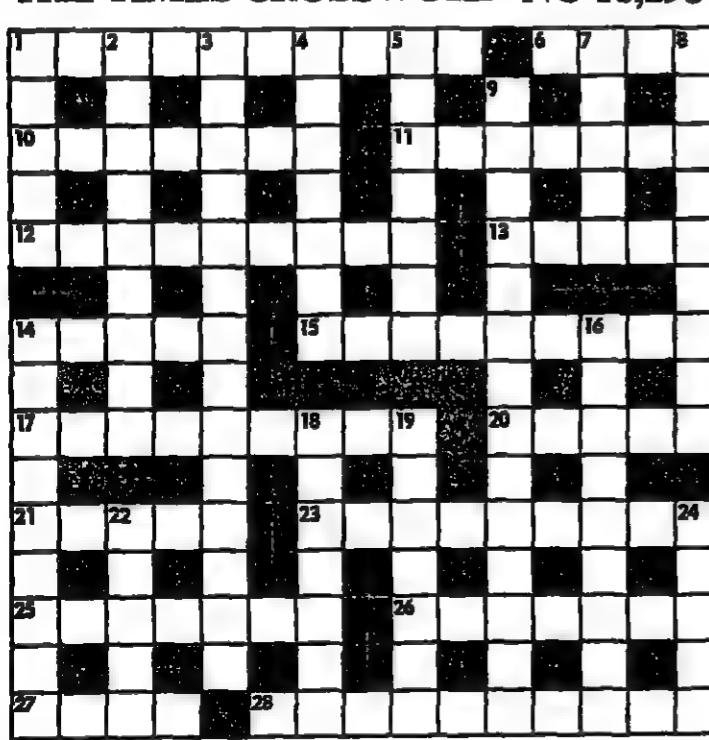
At \$30 million another telephone bidder joined in, communicating through one of Sotheby's bevy of young glamorous experts. Then at \$41 million a further telephone operator stirred. From then on, the going was less like the Grand National than a game of ping pong across the rostrum, with Mr Marion the referee.

The transaction was soon over, the gavel coming down

at \$71 million. With Sotheby's 10 per cent premium, this makes the final price \$78.1 million. Not a bad profit for Mrs Betsy Cushing Whitney, the widow of the financier and publisher Mr John Hay Whitney, who bought it for \$165,000 in 1929.

Despite Sotheby's euphoria, last week's results had their share of disasters. One third of Christie's Impressionist watercolours and drawings failed to sell, while 65 out of their 119 secondary Impressionists had the same fate.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,298



ACROSS

- 1 Not properly covered, food liable to go off (10)
- 6 Pocket large sums (4)
- 10 Means of carrying small volumes by tube (7)
- 11 Sour name for one producing a boom (7)
- 12 Composer of this Roman fable? (9)
- 13 Gold sovereign (5)
- 14 Squat conqueror's attitude? (5)
- 15 Firm with insurance to protect the more expensive work (4,5)
- 17 Bloomer is happy, given acceptable soil mixture (9)
- 20 Constitutional in castle gallery (5)
- 21 First capital gains tax, of course (5)
- 23 Preparing joint, perhaps, for beef enrou (9)
- 25 He made a bit in forge or in ship (7)
- 26 Fit to drink, say River Board (7)
- 27 Castle in the air? (4)

Concise crossword, page 44

Solution to Puzzle No 18,297

SCREEN TEST OPAL TUDAPRIB OUTFLIDER TONG WHYOGSVM POINTPOINT MOTORIETY NORMA THROWQUADRUPED EQUUS TRANSIENT DORIC AGREESTOCKROOM LEARNERNE EGLANTINE TENCH AAEFSCE FOXTROT SCHOLAR ETONASTRINGENT

BACKLOG PALETTTE RUFUS OFFENSIVE ODEETFIE MOTORIETY NORMA THROUADRUPE EQUUS TRANSIENT DORIC AGREESTOCKROOM LEARNERNE EGLANTINE TENCH AAEFSCE FOXTROT SCHOLAR ETONASTRINGENT

SHEAFFER A prize of a distinctive Sheaffer "Targa" Regency Stripe fountain pen with a solid 14-carat gold inlaid nib will be given for the first five correct solutions opened in The Times Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

DOCUMENT

- a. Notifying
- b. Loss by seepage
- c. A description

HANEPOOT

- a. A kind of grape
- b. Anglo-Saxon law court
- c. A chimney pot

JUMP-ROPE

- a. Skipping
- b. The boom yard
- c. A towing rope

Answers on page 13

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0898 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London 701* **Kent, Surrey, Sussex** 702* **Dorset, Herts & IOW** 703* **Devon, Cornwall** 704* **Wessex & Avon, Some Berks, Bucks, Oxon, Beds, Herts & Essex** 705* **Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambs, West Mids & Shropshire** 706* **Shrops, Herefs & Warks, Central Midlands, East Midlands, Lincoln & Humberside** 707* **Dyfed & Powys** 708* **Gwynedd & Chwyd** 709* **NW England** 710* **W & S Yorks & Dales** 711* **Cumbria & Lake District** 712* **S W Scotland** 713* **E Central Scotland** 714* **Edin & Fife, Lothian & Borders** 715* **W Central Scotland** 716* **Grampian** 717* **Orkney & Shetland** 718* **Hebrides** 719* **Isle of Man** 720* **Jersey** 721* **Guernsey** 722* **Channel Islands** 723* **London Bridge** 724* **Aberdeen** 725* **Blackpool** 726* **Brighton** 727* **Southend** 728* **Southampton** 729* **Southampton** 730* **Southampton** 731* **Southampton** 732* **Southampton** 733* **Southampton** 734* **Southampton** 735* **Southampton** 736* **Southampton** 737* **Southampton** 738* **Southampton** 739* **Southampton** 740* **Southampton** 741* **Southampton** 742* **Southampton** 743* **Southampton** 744* **Southampton** 745* **Southampton** 746* **Southampton** 747* **Southampton** 748* **Southampton** 749* **Southampton** 750* **Southampton** 751* **Southampton** 752* **Southampton** 753* **Southampton** 754* **Southampton** 755* **Southampton** 756* **Southampton** 757* **Southampton** 758* **Southampton** 759* **Southampton** 760* **Southampton** 761* **Southampton** 762* **Southampton** 763* **Southampton** 764* **Southampton** 765* **Southampton** 766* **Southampton** 767* **Southampton** 768* **Southampton** 769* **Southampton** 770* **Southampton** 771* **Southampton** 772* **Southampton** 773* **Southampton** 774* **Southampton** 775* **Southampton** 776* **Southampton** 777* **Southampton** 778* **Southampton** 779* **Southampton** 780* **Southampton** 781* **Southampton** 782* **Southampton** 783* **Southampton** 784* **Southampton** 785* **Southampton** 786* **Southampton** 787* **Southampton** 788* **Southampton** 789* **Southampton** 790* **Southampton** 791* **Southampton** 792* **Southampton** 793* **Southampton** 794* **Southampton** 795* **Southampton** 796* **Southampton** 797* **Southampton** 798* **Southampton** 799* **Southampton** 800* **Southampton** 801* **Southampton** 802* **Southampton** 803* **Southampton** 804* **Southampton** 805* **Southampton** 806* **Southampton** 807* **Southampton** 808* **Southampton** 809* **Southampton** 810* **Southampton** 811* **Southampton** 812* **Southampton** 813* **Southampton** 814* **Southampton** 815* **Southampton** 816* **Southampton** 817* **Southampton** 818* **Southampton** 819* **Southampton** 820* **Southampton** 821* **Southampton** 822* **Southampton** 823* **Southampton** 824* **Southampton** 825* **Southampton** 826* **Southampton** 827* **Southampton** 828* **Southampton** 829* **Southampton** 830* **Southampton** 831* **Southampton** 832* **Southampton** 833* **Southampton** 834* **Southampton** 835* **Southampton** 836* **Southampton** 837* **Southampton** 838* **Southampton** 839* **Southampton** 840* **Southampton** 841* **Southampton** 842* **Southampton** 843* **Southampton** 844* **Southampton** 845* **Southampton** 846* **Southampton** 847* **Southampton** 848* **Southampton** 849* **Southampton** 850* **Southampton** 851* **Southampton** 852* **Southampton** 853* **Southampton** 854* **Southampton** 855* **Southampton** 856* **Southampton** 857* **Southampton** 858* **Southampton** 859* **Southampton** 860* **Southampton** 861* **Southampton** 862* **Southampton** 863* **Southampton** 864* **Southampton** 865* **Southampton** 866* **Southampton** 867* **Southampton** 868* **Southampton** 869* **Southampton** 870* **Southampton** 871* **Southampton** 872* **Southampton** 873* **Southampton** 874* **Southampton** 875* **Southampton** 876* **Southampton** 877* **Southampton** 878* **Southampton** 879* **Southampton** 880* **Southampton** 881* **Southampton** 882* **Southampton** 883* **Southampton** 884* **Southampton** 885* **Southampton** 886* **Southampton** 887* **Southampton** 888* **Southampton** 889* **Southampton** 890* **Southampton** 891* **Southampton** 892* **Southampton** 893* **Southampton** 894* **Southampton** 895* **Southampton** 896* **Southampton** 897* **Southampton** 898* **Southampton** 899* **Southampton** 900* **Southampton** 901* **Southampton** 902* **Southampton** 903* **Southampton** 904* **Southampton** 905* **Southampton** 906* **Southampton** 907* **Southampton** 908* **Southampton** 909* **Southampton** 910* **Southampton** 911* **Southampton** 912* **Southampton** 913* **Southampton** 914* **Southampton** 915* **Southampton** 916* **Southampton** 917* **Southampton** 918* **Southampton** 919* **Southampton** 920* **Southampton** 921* **Southampton</b**

BUSINESS

SECTION 2

SATURDAY MAY 19 1990

17

- COMMENT: KENNETH FLEET 19
- PENSIONS: EQUAL RIGHTS 23
- SAVING: MANX MISERY 25
- WILLS: LEFT WITH DEBT 27

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

THE POUND

US dollar 1.6900 (-0.0010)
W German mark 2.7870 (+0.0020)
Exchange index 88.2 (+0.1)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1793.3 (-2.4)
FT-SE 100 2269.1 (-15.3)
USM (Datastream) n/a
Market report, page 20

Shares in 50-point collapse

THE FT-SE 100 index saw a turnaround of more than 50 points as euphoria over the Chancellor's remarks on full sterling participation in the European Monetary System collapsed. By the close, the index was 15.3 points down at 2,269.1 after climbing 37 points before 9am.

The pound, though underpinned by the prospect of UK interest rates staying high for the foreseeable future, and helped by the softer mark, was unable to match Thursday's 0.7 point surge on its trade-weighted index. It stood at 88.2 at the close, only 0.1 above the previous close.

Kenneth Fleet, page 19

Conder plunges
Shares in Conder Group, the steel cladding group, slumped from 615p to 340p after Mr Christopher Stewart-Smith, chairman, told shareholders profits this year would be significantly lower.

Market report, page 20

STOCK MARKETS

New York: Dow Jones 2818.06 (-13.65); Tokyo: Nikkei Average 32013.72 (-47.88); Hong Kong: Hang Seng 2255.89 (+9.26); Amsterdam: CBS Tendencia 119.1 (-0.6); Sydney: AD 101.71 (-0.5); Frankfurt: DAX 1843.58 (+4.20); Brussels: General 610.05 (-3.45); Paris: CAC 556.62 (+8.47); Zurich: SKA Gen 825.3 (-2.3); London: FT-A All-Share 1000.00 (-0.00); FT-SE 500 207.1 (-10.0); FT-SE Fixed Interest 87.27 (+0.34); FT Govt Secs 78.74 (+0.25); Recent Issues 4pm prices Page 20; Page 21

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISERS:
Schroders 757.5p (+10p); Laptops 523.5p (+12p); Wiesenhofers Rink 305p (+12p); Atwoods 451.5p (+15p); Berkeley 170p (+5p); Gibbs & Dandy 160p (+10p); Dunhill 378.5p (+10p); Bam & WA A' 358.5p (+11p); Camrose Group 328.5p (+11p); Waddington 328.5p (+11p).

FALLS:
Fresco 245.5p (-5p); Rank Org 788.5p (-10p); Thomson Corp 695p (-10p); GUS 'A' 952.5p (-7.5p); Borland 964.5p (-7.5p); Burmah 588.5p (-5p); British Land 327.5p (-10p); Prentis Financial 250p (-10p); 4pm prices Bargains 361.28; SEAQ Volume 594.8m.

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 15%; 3-month Interbank 15.5% - 15.1%; 3-month eligible bills: 14.7% - 14.5%; US: Prime Rate 10%; France: 8%; 3-month Treasury Bills 7.74 - 7.73%; 30-year bonds 100.2% - 100.2%; SEAQ Volume 594.8m.

CURRENCIES

London: £1.6900 New York: \$1.6910; £ DM2.87/70; \$ 1.4045; £ FF2.023; \$ 1.9744; £ Yen258.40; \$ Yen152.90; £ Index: 88.2; \$ Index: 87.1; ECU 20.733252; SDR 20.78515; £ ECU1.363787; \$ ESDR 1.273698.

GOLD

London: £369.70 cm-\$369.50; close \$369.50-370.00 (212.50-219.00); New York: Comex \$369.80-370.30.

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Jul) 51.75 bbl * Denotes latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

Bank	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	2.19	2.19
Austria Sch	20.55	20.25
Belgium Fr	80.75	85.25
Canada \$	2.08	1.95
Denmark Kr	11.75	10.48
Finland Mark	5.81	5.51
France Fr	5.92	5.22
Germany Dm	2.97	2.73
Greece Dr	2.93	2.51
Hong Kong \$	10.55	12.51
Ireland P	1.055	1.025
Italy Lira	2150	2020
Japan Yen	273	257
Netherlands Gld	3.28	3.05
Norway Kr	1.01	1.05
Portugal Esc	229	243
South Africa Rd	5.45	4.85
Spain Pts	181.50	169.50
Sweden Kr	10.45	10.25
Switzerland Fr	2.49	2.23
USA \$	4.90	4.100
Yugoslavia Dinar	1.773	1.573
	24.50	17.50

Rates for small denominations bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.
Retail Price Index: 125.1 (April)

Japanese halt exports of steel to USSR

By Joe Joseph, Tokyo, and Derek Harris, London

FOUR Japanese companies have decided to halt exports of steel pipes and machinery to Moscow because of late payments of about \$100 million.

The reaction comes in the wake of European companies experiencing similar problems over payment from Russia, and is a fresh blow to Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's struggle to modernize Soviet industry.

The arrears to the four steel companies are part of a mounting tally of late payments to several Japanese firms totalling about \$250 million, according to sources at Japan's big trading companies.

The problem is seen by some as one of the growing pains of *perestroika*, as decision-making moves away from central purchasing organizations to local enterprise.

But with Japan now Russia's third biggest trading partner after West Germany and Finland, a move by other Japanese companies to follow suit could badly jolt the Soviet economy.

This is the first time the Soviet Union has fallen behind in payments to Japanese companies, although many European exporters are also complaining about late settlements from the Soviet Union. Its total arrears to western companies are now put as high as \$1 billion.

Steel interests in Europe are among those known to have been having trouble with tardy Soviet payments. So it may be only a matter of time before European steel suppliers deny more shipments to Russia.

Earlier this week Lord Trefgarne, the British Trade Minister, reported on complaints raised by a dozen

British companies which had been discussed with the Soviet authorities. Moscow was working to put the problem right and some payments were now coming through, said Lord Trefgarne.

So far, the British authorities have been accepting suggestions that the problems have been largely administrative in origin. Central Soviet authorities had devolved hitherto centralized responsibility for foreign trade to various new groupings in the Soviet Union, including companies.

The officials said that decentralization of trading authority from central ministries to the various public corporations had prompted many of these corporations to increase their imports at the same time.

That led to a currency squeeze and havoc at the Soviet Union's four foreign trade settlement banks.

There is a possibility, analysts say, that with the Soviet Union now billing Eastern Europe for oil in dollars, the situation may improve. But many Japanese trading companies doubt that this is a temporary problem.

They say Moscow's shortage of hard currency is structural and that the problem is getting worse.

Recent research by the United States Central Intelligence Agency, showing that Soviet oil production is falling, has done little to paint a rosier picture, especially if oil prices stay weak.

Japanese exports of steel pipes, plant and machinery to the Soviet Union were already shrinking last year because of Moscow's shortage of hard currency.

Now they are likely to shrink further. The suspensions announced by the four steel firms — Nippon Steel, Kawasaki Steel, NKK and Sumitomo Metal Industries — total about 130 tons of steel products.

Some pipes and other machinery that already have been loaded ready for shipment are being held back until the Japanese exporters receive letters of guarantee from Moscow.

Mr Elliott will remain as a director and chairman of Elders.

His retirement was foreshadowed in *The Times* on March 1 and became inevitable when Elders confirmed a massive restructuring plan a week later, involving the sale of non-core assets and the creation of two single purpose companies — brewing and agribusiness.

Mr Elliott has been trying to straddle the increasingly uncomfortable dual role as chairman of both Elders' ultimate holding company, the debt-laden Harbin Holdings, and as operational manager of Elders' Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Mr Elliott will remain as a director and chairman of Elders.

His retirement was foreshadowed in *The Times* on March 1 and became inevitable when Elders confirmed a massive restructuring plan a week later, involving the sale of non-core assets and the creation of two single purpose companies — brewing and agribusiness.

Mr Elliott has been trying to straddle the increasingly uncomfortable dual role as chairman of both Elders' ultimate holding company, the debt-laden Harbin Holdings, and as operational manager of Elders' Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Mr Elliott will remain as a director and chairman of Elders.

Mr Elliott is both a politician and a financial engineer, whereas Mr Bartels is more concerned with getting the industrial logic of Elders' brewing interests to work for investors.

Mr Bartels had been due to take over the chief executive

interests are sold, and Mr Elliott, while retaining his chairmanship, is expected to hand over management to Mr Bartels.

From *The Times*, March 1

THE collapse in the share price of Elders IXL is believed to be behind the early resignation of Mr John Elliott as the company's chief executive. He is to be replaced by Mr Peter Bartels, head of the worldwide brewing group.

Mr Elliott has been trying to straddle the increasingly uncomfortable dual role as chairman of both Elders' ultimate holding company, the debt-laden Harbin Holdings, and as operational manager of Elders' Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Mr Elliott will remain as a director and chairman of Elders.

His retirement was foreshadowed in *The Times* on March 1 and became inevitable when Elders confirmed a massive restructuring plan a week later, involving the sale of non-core assets and the creation of two single purpose companies — brewing and agribusiness.

Mr Elliott is both a politician and a financial engineer, whereas Mr Bartels is more concerned with getting the industrial logic of Elders' brewing interests to work for investors.

Mr Bartels had been due to take over the chief executive

Net assets slide at Charterhall forces meeting

By Our City Staff

THE estimated 1,500 private shareholders in Charterhall, the former British vehicle of Mr Russell Goward, the troubled Australian entrepreneur, have been called to a special meeting on June 13 after a disastrous set of interim figures for the year to end-March. Pre-tax profits rose 34 per cent to £49.8 million, while the final dividend is 4p, up 19 per cent, making a 5.78p total against 4.98p.

Standard accounting of the assets by contrast, put them at 213p a share, an increase of 3.7 per cent from last year, marginally higher than the FT all-share index.

The new asset value, if accepted by shareholders, puts British Coal's bid in doubt. Globe's shares rose 5p to 196p, against the 191p offer.

Globe has augmented a standard asset valuation of 210p a share from May 11 by including £44 million for its fund management operations, £22.5 million for the benefit of its debenture stock, and £21.5 million for the final dividend.

Presenting Globe's defence, Mr David Hardy, the chairman, said: "This is a thoroughly lousy offer from the Coal Board. It is just nasty short-termism that reflects very badly on the City today."

Mr Malcolm Le May, of BZW, British Coal's adviser, poured scorn on the valuation. "The revision is highly spurious and has a number of elements that are not normally included in net asset valuation," he said.

British Coal published year-end figures from British Investment Trust, which it controls. These show a 5.8 per cent rise in asset value to 176p, more than 2 per cent better than Globe's.

If these questions concern you, you should talk to us. Because not only do we understand those concerns — we can do something about them.

We can help you earn a high regular monthly income.

We can provide you with the capital growth you need to fight inflation over the coming years. If any of our suggestions involve investments which fluctuate we will tell you before you invest!

And we can help you to pay less tax — and even get tax back for you.

We are Britain's leading retirement income specialists and act on behalf of thousands of clients from our offices throughout the country.

£1bn Coal bid under fire

ADRIAN BROOKS



Globe in trust: David Hardy under watchful eye of former chairman Lord Pender

Globe hits back with higher asset valuation

By Martin Waller

THE market value of Coloroll, the battered home furnishings group, halved again yesterday as the market continued to take a pessimistic view of the rescue plan put together by Canover Investments.

The price fell as low as 3 3/4p at one stage before firming again to 4 1/4p, half the overnight price, valuing the group at less than £8.5 million. The shares peaked at 373p before the 1987 crash.

The new valuation appears in Globe's defence document, entitled "An offer you must refuse." It compares with a value of 204.5p in March. The document gives Globe's figures for the year to end-March. Pre-tax profits rose 34 per cent to £49.8 million, while the final dividend is 4p, up 19 per cent, making a 5.78p total against 4.98p.

Standard accounting of the assets by contrast, put them at 213p a share, an increase of 3.7 per cent from last year, marginally higher than the FT all-share index.

The group was condemning as erroneous a report that the senior management would be leaving if the Canover package, which has the backing of three substantial shareholders in Coloroll, Legal & General, the Coal Board pension funds and Scottish Amicable, succeeds.

No decisions have been made, but Mr Philip Green, the managing director and in

charge of the day-to-day running of the business, is likely to stay. An eventual victim, however, could be the finance director, Mr Eric Kirby.

The Canover plan would mean a hefty dilution of existing shareholders' interests and has not met with the approval of the other shareholders. But it would allow a degree of face-saving for the banks, owed as much as £180 million by Coloroll at the last

court this week. Justice Department officials said Parent also served as the depository for 32 million Ferranti shares. When ISC merged with Ferranti in September 1987, Mr Guerin obtained "good" Ferranti stock in return for JSC shares that were artificially inflated by the alleged defence contract fraud, according to evidence by the Internal Revenue Service.

These shares were then transferred to Parent industries which "obtained financing from numerous financial institutions using the stock as collateral." Loans ranging from \$500,000 to \$39 million were raised, according to the IRS.

For peace of mind, why not talk to us now? Complete the coupon and post it to Knight Williams & Company Limited, 161 New Bond Street, London W1Y 0LA or telephone us on 071-408 1138.

THE THINKING PERSON'S GUIDE TO RETIREMENT

Joe Hart 150

Belgian courts give PRB time to finish rescue plan

By Melinda Wittstock

CREDITORS of PRB, the loss-making Belgian munitions maker linked to the Iraqi "supergun" controversy through its connection with Dr Gerald Bull, the murdered arms dealer, have been forced by the Belgian courts to keep the company's credit facilities in place for an extra three weeks.

The courts, which were to rule on whether to grant the company protection from its creditors on May 24, have given PRB until the end of June to put the finishing touches to a rescue plan.

Acquired by Astra Holdings, the troubled British munitions and fireworks company, in a £21.5 million deal last year, the indebted PRB is certain to fall into receivership should the court not rule in favour of PRB's request last month for Chapter 11-style bankruptcy protection. The rescue plan, formulated by

Astra and Société Générale de Belgique, the industrial holding company from which Astra bought PRB, had been held up by the request for "bigger guarantees" by PRB's principal bankers — Générale de Banque and Banque Indosuez Belgique.

But Mr Tony McCann, the chief executive of Astra, which is not putting any money towards the rescue plan, said a "compromise" looks far more likely.

"Its future still hangs in the balance, but at least it's not in receivership yet. The further extension by the court gives cause to think a satisfactory plan to keep PRB alive may be in the offing," he said.

PRB, which employs 1,300 people in five factories, will continue to trade with the help of a "small loan" from La Générale until the court ruling in late June. Astra, which claims it was misled by La

Générale about PRB's future profitability at the time of the deal, dropped plans to sue it for compensation, and has settled one of four cases for "a small sum" instead. Astra said it was told PRB would make a profit of £2 million; instead it made a £12 loss. Astra has written off the £20 million due to it by PRB.

The Belgian government is now investigating PRB's involvement in the sale of gun propellants to Iraq via Jordan, said Mr Roy Barber, Astra's chairman. PRB had a contract, now lapsed, for "unusual types of gun propellant for very large guns" with ATI of Athens, a defence agent of Iraq closely linked to Dr Bull and his Brussels-based Space Research Corporation.

Meantime, two further former directors of Astra have been arrested and held for questioning by the Ministry of Defence fraud squad, which last month began investigating "contractual irregularities" under Astra's former management.

Mr John Anderson, who resigned as an executive director last month without compensation, was questioned last week. Mr John Sileens, the former sales director, was also questioned.

The MoD, which charged Mr Christopher Gumbley, Astra's former chief executive, with conspiracy giving a £12,500 BMW car to Mr Stowe, an MoD employee also charged with corruptly receiving it, has also questioned a second MoD employee.

Mr Barber said he knew no more about the continuing MoD investigation.

Astra has given warning that it will fall into "substantial losses" for the year to end-March, mainly as a result of the acquisition of PRB.

Backlash by institutions predicted

Hanson attacks US bid barriers

By Carol Leonard

LORD Hanson, chairman of Hanson — which this week revealed that it had more than £6 billion at its disposal in cash and facilities — and Britain's past master of the contested takeover bid, is critical of the growing corporate protectionism in the US, considers hostile acquisitions no longer possible there but predicts an imminent backlash by the big US investment institutions.

Speaking at Smith New Court's annual dinner, held at the former Astor family home, Cliveden, in Buckinghamshire, he said: "When it comes to takeovers in the US, Sir James Goldsmith might tell us the game is over. It is not over. But the rules and playing fields are constantly being changed — and often those changes are to protect sleepy management and to win votes.

"To work within these rules, the British businessman has to do more homework and stay away from hostile bids that are probably not going to work anyway."

He pointed out that 39 states now have some form of anti-takeover law. "It is a sad sight," he went on, "in the US, the bastion of free enterprise."

But there was, he said, mounting pressure among institutional fund managers for a reversal of such regulations and attitudes.

"Institutional fund managers across the US are flexing their muscles and saying that their legal responsibility is to do the best they can for their shareholders. Increasingly, they are objecting to these rules."

Lord Hanson, who rarely speaks in public, had clearly been persuaded by the promise that a number of his own key institutional shareholders would be there to listen to him.



Hanson: "More of us must rally round the flag"

Among the 100 assembled guests — who included Mr John Wakeham, the Secretary of State for Energy, Mr Geoffrey Mulcahy, chief executive of Kingfisher, Mr Norman Ireland, chairman of Bowater, Mr Michael Green, chairman of Carlton Communications, Mr Ian Maxwell, son of Robert, and Mr Greg Hutchings, chief executive of Tomkins — were a large number of prominent fund managers who, both singularly and collectively, held a significant number of Hanson shares.

"All my most important customers are here," Lord Hanson observed. But it was those same "important customers" who were most taken aback when the entrepreneurial peer then turned his attention to the British political arena, which came across as a particularly fervent Conservative.

When he finished, one highly influential investment director remarked: "It's not surprising that he holds those views, but it is surprising that, as a businessman, he nailed his colours so firmly and so publicly to the mast. His bridges are burning."

The Guinness Trial

Approach 'had no effect' on voting by Prudential

By A Correspondent

LORD John Hunt, the chairman of Prudential Corporation, told a court that an approach by Sir Jack Lyons, the financier, had no effect on the company backing the Guinness bid.

The former Cabinet Secretary said Sir Jack approached him in April 1986, days before the Guinness £2.7 billion offer for Distillers went unconditional.

He told Southwark Crown Court Sir Jack sought to persuade him of the merits of Guinness rather than its rival Argyll, but the approach had no influence on Prudential assenting its 4 per cent holding in Distillers the brewer. Lord Hunt said he made a note of the meeting. "He [Sir Jack] said the Prudential had a sizeable holding in Distillers and he hoped we would accept the Guinness bid."

He then outlined the reasons why he should do so, placing particular emphasis on the management strengths and of Mr Ernest Saunders as he saw them. Lord Hunt said the conversation was in general terms but there was nothing in the information Sir Jack gave that was not available elsewhere. As non-executive chairman, he was not involved in the consideration of the rival bids.

Mr John Chadwick, QC, prosecuting, asked: "Did you say anything during the meet-



Sir Jack: "under pressure"

ing leading him to think you had made a decision about how you would deal with the Prudential holding?" Lord Hunt replied: "Very much the opposite, because I told him the Prudential normally made their decisions very much later in the day when it was a contested bid and we tend to wait until the last moment."

Mr Chadwick asked: "Did what he said to you have any influence on the way Prudential decided to deal with the holding in Distillers?" Lord Hunt said: "No. I reported the approach to me on paper to the investment department but in fact the feeling of the investment committee when they considered the rival bids and when it came before the board was that we should in fact support Argyll."

However, he admitted at

the end of the day, Prudential backed Guinness as it had already won more than 50 per cent of acceptances from Distillers' holders. Mr Robert Harman, QC, defending Sir Jack, asked why Lord Hunt was in court as he was on no list of prosecution witnesses.

The reply was that officers of the Prudential read newspaper reports that he had been persuaded to back Guinness by Sir Jack. Lord Hunt added it was an inaccurate picture. The court has heard that when Sir Jack was interviewed by Government inspectors investigating the bid, he claimed he was under pressure to recruit supporters for Guinness. And he agreed Sir Jack had set out in general terms the benefit to the country and to Prudential investors of putting its Distillers stock behind Guinness.

Mr Harman asked: "He sought to persuade you of the merits of an improved company under Ernest Saunders rather than James Gulliver [of Argyll]; he said Ernest Saunders was the best man." Lord Hunt replied "yes." He added he made it clear the board had the final decision.

Ernest Saunders, aged 54, Gerald Ronson, aged 50, Anthony Parnes, aged 44, and Sir Jack, aged 74, deny 24 charges of theft, false accounting and Companies Act breaches. The trial continues.

Global war on battlefield of wider share ownership

The war of words between British Coal Pension Funds, the aggressor, and Globe Investment Trust has reached a new and noisy pitch. Not without good cause, Globe sees itself as a shining light among investment trusts and neither the cash offer nor the two variants of it would persuade me to sell.

In its defence document issued yesterday, Globe, sensibly, is not fighting on investment performance alone. Though good, this can be challenged. Where the confrontation is not conventional is in the field of Wider Share Ownership.

Globe has more shareholders (42,000) than any other investment trust, more shareholders in fact than the vast majority of quoted companies. There is a case, which I support, for making a well-managed investment trust the core of a private investment portfolio; and there are powerful arguments for not accepting an opportunistic bid that, in chairman David Hardy's words, "completely ignores what Globe is all about."

The wider context in which the bid is set was well drawn by Michael Hart, chairman of the Association of Investment Trust Companies. Mr Hart has made his reputation by skillfully conducting the investment policies of Foreign & Colonial, the daddy of all investment trusts, not by making speeches. At the AITC's first annual

dinner on Wednesday he excelled himself. Unsurprisingly, as he was defending his own, he saw the Coal Board Pension Fund "blithely digging away in the dark, quite oblivious of the damage it is doing to the revival of a useful part of the City infrastructure, and in particular to the cause of wider share ownership and popular capitalism."

But, he went on: "That may not cut any ice with institutions. There are some managers who would sell their grandmother if they could get the right price for her. But I cannot see how it is in anybody's interest to sell £1 billion of their assets at a discount near the bottom of the market."

Then, addressing the basic problem of investment trusts in bid situations — the discount at which their shares stand to underlying net asset values — he claimed it was "an oversimplification" to say because there is a discount there is oversupply. On the same grounds there should be fewer banks, insurance companies and a lot less of British industry. The

regime to continue. The prospects for Mrs Thatcher have improved.

The fact that the Chancellor of the Exchequer, both in his *Wall Street Journal* interview and in his speech to the Confederation of British Industry annual dinner, seemed to be contemplating membership of the Exchange Rate Mechanism of the European Monetary System sooner rather than later suggested two things.

The market knows pretty accurately the extent of the "bad" economic news likely to hit it in the rest of this year. It tends to be less sophisticated in its political analysis. Though given from time to time to optimistic assessments (wishful thinking) of what Labour would do if it were the next government, it must prefer the Conservative

discount problem arose in the '50s, '60s and '70s when high tax drove the private investor out of shares into tax-privileged areas. We have already reversed that trend with a new and competitive investment product."

How much real notice will the grandmother sellers take of Mr Hart? Seventy per cent of investment trust shares are held by institutions and the mass of UK companies is controlled by 30. They will decide the fate of Globe. If they throw it to the Coal Funds they will have condoned wiping out the biggest investment trust and 5 per cent of the investment trust sector. They will have reinforced the cynics' opinion that the City doesn't care a fig for wider share ownership except during privatization sales.

The AITC is soon with the Coal Funds because the way has just been cleared by the Securities and Investments Board for it to tackle the mass savings market with savings schemes. The word sent buzzing through the industry by its dedicated and zealous leader, Philip Chappell, is "marketing." Not all investment trust managers have yet woken up to the wider responsibilities and new opportunities, and many may prefer to stay asleep. Their aggregate fees are running at about £150 million a year and they spend £10 million on marketing their wares. They may need to reverse the figures!

last two weeks has been working itself away from a position in which it felt interest rates might have to go higher to one where it is confident that the next move in rates will be down. With John Major's help it is nearly there. Both the gilt-edged and money markets have tentatively taken this on board and it is the key to stabilizing ordinary shares in preparation for the next bull market.

This could be some way off; it depends on the relative fortunes of the two main parties.

I stay with my prediction that the general election will be in the autumn of 1991, and my feeling that full membership of the EMS is an important date in the political timetable as well as a financial event of some consequence.

KENNETH FLEET

dinner on Wednesday he excelled himself.

Unsurprisingly, as he was defending his own, he saw the Coal Board

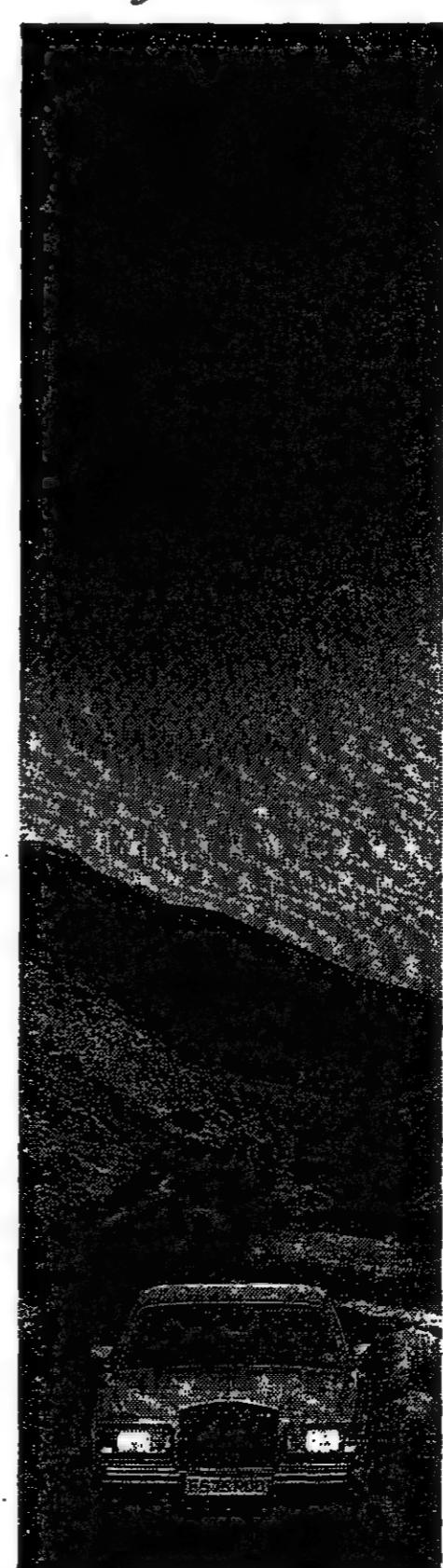
Pension Fund "blithely digging away in the dark, quite oblivious of the damage it is doing to the revival of a useful part of the City infrastructure, and in particular to the cause of wider share ownership and popular capitalism."

But, he went on: "That may not cut any ice with institutions. There are some managers who would sell their grandmother if they could get the right price for her. But I cannot see how it is in anybody's interest to sell £1 billion of their assets at a discount near the bottom of the market."

Then, addressing the basic problem of investment trusts in bid situations — the discount at which their shares stand to underlying net asset values — he claimed it was "an oversimplification" to say because there is a discount there is oversupply.

The wider context in which the bid is set was well drawn by Michael Hart, chairman of the Association of Investment Trust Companies. Mr Hart has made his reputation by skillfully conducting the investment policies of Foreign & Colonial, the daddy of all investment trusts, not by making speeches. At the AITC's first annual

A previously owned Rolls-Royce.



Experience it first hand.

WARRANTED

Rolls-Royce Motor Cars Limited
A Vickers Company

Available only from Rolls-Royce and Bentley Authorised Distributors.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Unit Trust Managers	Bd	Other	Cong	Yld	Bd	Other	Cong	Yld	Bd	Other	Cong	Yld	Bd	Other	Cong	Yld	Bd	Other	Cong	Yld	Bd	Other	Cong	Yld	
ABERY UNIT TRUST MANAGERS	50, Victoria Street, London SW1A 1BB				70.85	-0.62	0.74		29.19	0.54	-0.45	0.27	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	7.15	0.21	-0.21	0.00	
Tel: 0865 717373 (London)					71.23	-0.62	0.55		73.33	77.40	+1.21	0.57	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	7.15	0.21	-0.21	0.00	
High Inc Equity	121.1	+1.1	10.03		63.13	-0.50	-0.55	1.53	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	7.15	0.21	-0.21	0.00	
World Bond	105.1	-0.7	9.57		74.01	-0.48	-0.55	1.53	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	7.15	0.21	-0.21	0.00	
Aston Pacific	207.3	-1.7	1.16		274.3	251.0	+0.3	0.50	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	7.15	0.21	-0.21	0.00	
Asian Income	140.4	-0.5	10.59		10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	7.15	0.21	-0.21	0.00	
Emergy Corp	101.2	-0.6	0.57		91.22	97.10	-0.7	0.57	Do Div	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	7.15	0.21	-0.21	0.00
Euro Corp	101.2	-0.6	0.57		10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	7.15	0.21	-0.21	0.00	
Japan	107.2	-0.5	2.76		10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	7.15	0.21	-0.21	0.00	
US Govt Inc	105.5	-0.5	2.76		10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	7.15	0.21	-0.21	0.00	
EMG Corp	86.7	-0.5	2.76		10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	7.15	0.21	-0.21	0.00	
UK Govt Inc	105.5	-0.5	2.76		10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	7.15	0.21	-0.21	0.00	
Monetary Fund	30.05	-0.5	2.52		10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	7.15	0.21	-0.21	0.00	
Mutual Fund	10.00	-0.5	2.52		10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	7.15	0.21	-0.21	0.00	
Am Inc	47.3	-0.5	2.52		10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	7.15	0.21	-0.21	0.00	
Effect	47.3	-0.5	2.52		10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	7.15	0.21	-0.21	0.00	
ALTRUST MANAGEMENT LTD	10, Queen's Terrace, Aberdeen AB2 1QJ				70.82	-0.62	0.57		10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	7.15	0.21	-0.21	0.00	
Tel: 0865 717373 (London)					71.23	-0.62	0.55		10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	7.15	0.21	-0.21	0.00	
High Inc Equity	121.1	+1.1	10.03		10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	7.15	0.21	-0.21	0.00	
World Bond	105.3	-0.5	10.59		10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	7.15	0.21	-0.21	0.00	
EMG Corp	86.7	-0.5	2.52		10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	7.15	0.21	-0.21	0.00	
EMG Corp	86.7	-0.5	2.52		10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	7.15	0.21	-0.21	0.00	
UK Govt Inc	55.62	-0.5	2.52		10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	7.15	0.21	-0.21	0.00	
Monetary Fund	10.00	-0.5	2.52		10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	7.15	0.21	-0.21	0.00	
Monetary Fund	10.00	-0.5	2.52		10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	7.15	0.21	-0.21	0.00	
Monetary Fund	10.00	-0.5	2.52		10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	7.15	0.21	-0.21	0.00	
Monetary Fund	10.00	-0.5	2.52		10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	7.15	0.21	-0.21	0.00	
Monetary Fund	10.00	-0.5	2.52		10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	7.15	0.21	-0.21	0.00	
Monetary Fund	10.00	-0.5	2.52		10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	7.15	0.21	-0.21	0.00	
Monetary Fund	10.00	-0.5	2.52		10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	7.15	0.21	-0.21	0.00	
Monetary Fund	10.00	-0.5	2.52		10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	7.15	0.21	-0.21	0.00	
Monetary Fund	10.00	-0.5	2.52		10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00	10.82	0.21	-0.21	0.00													

£150

EDITED BY LINDSAY COOK

THE TIMES

FAMILY MONEY

SATURDAY MAY 19 1990

523

49

Employers wait for Government to act on retirement age

Women face longer working lives after pensions ruling

By Lindsay Cook, Family Money Editor

COMPANIES are set to change the age at which men and women retire, to bring them into line, but they want the government to act first and change the state retirement age.

Any reduction of the male retirement age below 64 would be more expensive for both the state and employers than the current retirement differential, even though women would be required to work beyond 60. It is therefore most likely that women will have to work longer.

The Department of Social Security said it was in dis-

cussions on a new pension age but it was not working to a specific deadline.

The European Court this week ruled that occupational pension schemes should apply the same retirement benefits to men as they do to women. The case involved a man made redundant at 52, but the pensions industry agrees that it means that in future pensions will be equated with pay.

Men and women will have to be treated the same even though pensions as such are excluded from the Sex Discrimination Act.

Employers and pensions

providers want the government to come to a decision on the state retirement age in the near future, so that they can tie in with it.

They argue it is no use their making pensions at 60 available to male employees, at great cost to themselves, if the men will not get a state pension. Only the privileged few in very good pension schemes can retire at 60 without a state pension as well, said Mr Brian Simmonds of Sun Life.

The vast majority of pension schemes, which guarantee to pay a proportion of

the employees' final salary as pension, have different retirement ages for men and women. Men in these schemes, who want to retire five years early at 60, face drawing a pension reduced by about 30 per cent to take account of five years' less contributions and the payment of the pension for five years' longer.

In the most recent survey of National Association of Pensions Funds' members 43 per cent of those who replied had equalised pension ages already. But members of the NAPF tend to provide the better schemes and those who reply to its annual survey are again likely to be proud of the pensions they offer.

Of those who had equalised the retirement age 43 per cent had opted for 60 and 42 per cent had chosen 65. Those who had chosen 60 had tended to be among the first schemes to offer an equal pension age.

Mr Mike Brown of NAPF said: "The schemes which are equalising now tend to choose 65. This is partly because of pension costs and also because of demographic considerations. Employers want to encourage existing employees to stay."

"Even choosing an equal pension age of 64 1/4, which is said to be cost neutral, would be more expensive for employers who had very few female employees."

Mr Simmonds said that approximately 80 per cent of all pension schemes had the state retirement ages. "There

is no point in retiring at 60 on a reduced pension if you have got to wait five years for the pension. If men have to spend five years as technically unemployed before they get their state pension it would not be very satisfactory."

He said that if schemes brought in a joint retirement age of 65 it could reduce the cost of pensions. Women would draw pensions for five years less, make five years' more contributions and the money would remain invested for five years longer.

Mr Ron Spill of Legal & General said: "The industry does not want to be faced with a constant stream of cases on pensions equality. We need to change to a way that does not involve any discrimination."

It might be possible to safeguard the existing retirement age for women over 40. But such phasing in could still cause problems in the courts in the future."

He added that widowers' pensions could become obligatory. The provision of a widow's pension of half the husband's pension is common but widowers' pensions are less so, although on average the cost of providing widowers' pensions is a quarter of providing widows' pensions.

Investigations are also believed to have widened to take in a possible connection between Mr Tubbs and two Surrey-based members of Fimbra, the Financial Intermediaries Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association.

Mr Tubbs became a tied agent of Allied Dunbar after being struck off as a solicitor

for using clients' money and serving a prison sentence. He

sold Allied Dunbar products

for 10 years until they parted

company in December.

The investment group said

it had checked Mr Tubbs' references but did not know of his background.

He operated from his home

in Bar Road, Heliford Passage,

Falmouth; an office at 80

Ebury Street, London SW1;

and another home in Bramshott, Hampshire.

Since the Financial Services

Act came into operation two

years ago, tied agents have

been authorized only to pass

business to the company to

which they are tied. Independents, such as Fimbra mem-

bers, can deal with a variety.

The Plymouth official

receiver's office initially listed

22 unsecured creditors owed

£215,000 by Mr Tubbs. This

has since been revised to 29

creditors owed about

£300,000, but the receiver is

still trying to establish a final

figure.

Company schemes already

face having to apply their

surprises to improve the pen-

sions of early leavers and they

want to know what the impact

of equal retirement is going to

be before they use these

surprises.

Mr Tubbs' assets are shown

as just £150, including cash in

hand, by the statement of

affairs filed with the Truro

Court.

The largest creditor listed

are two women — one in

Falmouth owed £67,000 and

another in Bideford, Devon.

owed £50,000. Both refused to comment, though one said she was expecting a visit from the police to discuss the matter. Lloyds Bank is among seven creditors owed £10,000.

At Prudential Holborn, Mr Alan Wren, chief executive, said that following a request from the SIB for information, the group had checked the records of its up-market Vanburgh division back to the early 'eighties and found about 50 clients who had placed business through Mr

Tubbs.

"We don't know whether what we have is what the clients think we have," said Mr Wren, estimating total investments held at about £100,000.

A spokesman for Equity & Law said the company was continuing to help the SIB and the police, but did not yet know the scope of its involvement with clients of Mr Tubbs.

At M&G, Mr Tim Miller said his group had no record of being asked for information, or of dealing with Mr Tubbs.

KEY BENEFIT

The top rate of interest with £10,000 or more, a minimum investment of only £1,000.

It's called our Gross 91 Account.

An investment of £10,000 and over offers you an incredible 16.05% gross (variable).

That's high. In fact, no other national building society currently offers a higher rate.

And a minimum investment of only £1,000 and up to £9,999 gets you a return of 15.50% gross (variable).

Although a strictly limited issue, additions can be made to your account while the issue remains open.

To take advantage of our exceptionally high rates of interest, all we ask you to do is maintain your balance with us until 1st May 1991. Thereafter withdrawals are available simply by giving 91 days notice or instantly subject to 91 days penalty. We even have an early closure option should you require money in an emergency. It's a great deal all round.

Interest will be credited on the 30th April 1991, which lets you take full advantage of your 1991-92 tax allowance. If you also require interest paid gross in the current tax year, ask for details of Yorkshire Guernsey.

Simply clip the coupon and return it with your cheque today by FREEPOST to the address below.

Or call into any branch of the Society.

FREEPOST

Act now — Issue strictly limited.
Send to: Yorkshire Building Society (Department G91),
FREEPOST, Yorkshire House, Westgate, BRADFORD,
BD1 1BR.
I enclose a cheque for £....., plus £1,000
made payable to Yorkshire Building Society. T19.5
NAME IN FULL (Mr/Mrs/Miss)

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

D.O.B. TEL:

SIGNATURE

Please send me details of Yorkshire Guernsey

YORKSHIRE

Building Society

Britain's Key Building Society

gross

Could I borrow your
Tipp-Ex?

Leeds drops £1/2m advertising campaign after tax mistake

By Lindsay Cook

THE Leeds Permanent building society has had to change a £500,000 advertising campaign because it could mislead investors and cause them to fall foul of the Inland Revenue.

The advertisements for the Tax Free Gold account, which pays interest gross so long as investors do not receive the interest until after April 6, 1991, stated that anyone could have interest paid gross "just so long as the interest earned does not exceed your personal tax allowance in the 1991/2 tax year."

Investors who signed up for the account in this belief would have found that tax was deducted after all if they had any other earnings.

This is because interest can only be paid gross when the investor's total income is not higher than his or her personal allowance.

But when telephoned, the society's helpline repeated that interest would be paid gross so long as it did not exceed the allowance. No questions were asked about other earnings, although the Leeds went on to say that a husband and wife could each invest £30,000 without paying any tax.

A spokeswoman for the society said the advertisement complied with the Building

more, but allow no withdrawals and pay no interest until next year.

People who invested such a large sum now would undoubtedly have an income above their tax allowance as interest of more than £6,500 would be earned — more than double the individual tax allowance. And interest will continue to clock up in 1991 if the sum remains invested.

The only way they can be sure of not paying tax would be to invest such a sum in the autumn or to choose a time deposit, which does not allow withdrawals but can pay interest gross on deposits placed for much shorter periods.

The accounts, which postpone the interest until next year, are best for smaller investors with no other earnings.

An indication of the rush offshore to take advantage of independent taxation was given by the profit and loss statement of Abbey National (Overseas), published this week. In 1989 the Jersey subsidiary made a pre-tax profit of £4.5 million compared with less than £1 million in 1988. The former building society was warned by the Jersey authorities not to advertise its gross-paid accounts to housewives.

DUNEDIN

Don't just save it—invest it!

If you've got even a little spare money — say £30 a month or a lump sum of little as £250 — the stockmarkets of the world are open to you through the Dunedin Investment Trust Plan.

You might have thought only very rich people could afford to select a variety of different shares to spread their investment, but our latest international portfolio includes companies, foreign speculators, banks, oil companies, property and a host of others.

With Dunedin anyone can do it. You can, the four trusts managed by Dunedin invest in a range of shares, funds or them, right across the board. Your money buys shares in the Trust or Trusts of your choice and you benefit from any income and capital growth.

In the past 10 years the average share price of all investment trusts has out-performed building society deposits, the Financial Times Actuaries All Share Index and the Retail Price Index.

Please remember though, past performance is no guarantee for the future. Share prices may go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount you invested.

If you're a regular saver you can join for as little as £30 a month, while occasional investors can come in with a

DUNEDIN
FUND MANAGERS LTD
Dunedin House
25 Raventhorpe Terrace, Edinburgh EH4 3EX
Telephone: 031-315 2000
Member of IMRO

AJTC, Marcell & Co., NatWest, IFM, etc.

FREEPOST, Edinburgh EH2 0HR
Telephone: 031-310 0003

Please send me details of the
Dunedin Investment Trust Savings Plan.
The booklet contains an application form.

Name _____
Address _____
Telephone _____

THE HIGHEST
RATE
AVAILABLE FROM
A NATIONAL
BUILDING SOCIETY.
LIMITED ISSUE,
ACT NOW.

Interest will be payable gross if the March 1990 budget proposals are enacted and any required certification is provided by investors. Investors unable to self-certify will receive interest net of basic rate income tax. If the March 1990 budget proposals are not enacted or if the account is closed (for any reason) before 6th April 1991, then interest will be paid net of the then composite rate tax liability which may not be reclaimable. Interest paid after 6th April 1991 will be chargeable to tax for the Tax Year 1990-91 and may not be offset against any unused personal allowance in the Tax Year 1990-91. All interest rates are variable. Highest rate for comparable gross interest products available at the date of publication. Full details of terms and conditions are available from any branch of the Society. No partial withdrawals are permitted prior to 1st May 1991, thereafter partial withdrawals or closure will be available at 91 days notice or penalty. Early closure is available subject to 91 days loss of interest.
Head Office: Yorkshire House, Westgate, Bradford BD1 2AU. Telephone: 0274 734622.

RETIREMENT INCOME

THE IPS LAMONT
SOLUTION

Today, it has never been more vital that you seek trustworthy and independent financial advice – particularly since investing for growth and income after you retire is so different from investing whilst you are still working.

As a separate company within the Investment Portfolio Services Group, IPS Lamont PLC specialise in dealing with investment – both for retired clients, and those planning their retirement. This means we can apply the professional and technical expertise which your personal situation demands, and also provide the greater security offered by a more broadly based organisation.

IPS Lamont PLC is a member of FIMBRA and has a C3 category; the most comprehensive allowed, covering the broadest range of investments under the most stringent regulatory controls. FIMBRA is the Financial Intermediaries Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association.

* To obtain your FREE copy of 'INVESTING IN RETIREMENT – THE IPS LAMONT SOLUTION' (a 20 page guide to wise investment for growth and income), please write to: IPS LAMONT PLC, 15 Manchester Square, London, W1M 5AE or telephone 071-224 4488

I.P.S LAMONT
PLC

INDEPENDENT INVESTMENT MANAGERS & FINANCIAL ADVISORS

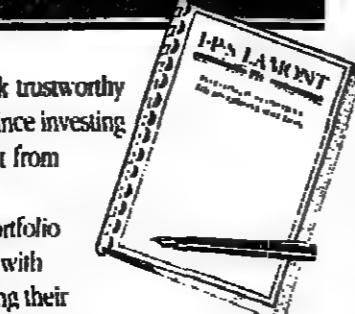
Please send me 'Investing in Retirement – The IPS Lamont Solution'

NAME _____
(BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE)

ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____

T-19.5.00



As if high interest rates were not enough, low-start borrowers now face repaying their enlarged mortgages

BORROWERS with low-start mortgages could face repayment difficulties if, as the Chancellor of the Exchequer has given warning, interest rates remain high for some time to come.

The early low-start mortgage schemes charge lower interest for the first two, three or four years, after which the shortfall has to be repaid. The first homeowners who took this option will soon have to increase their repayments to make up the discounts of about £100 a month on a £50,000 loan, on top of paying current high interest rates.

There are various types of low-start mortgage. Some recoup the shortfall through higher monthly repayments, while others add the money owed to the original mortgage so borrowers are repaying a larger loan than they started out with.

The theory behind low-starts is that housebuyers face most hardship in the early years but, with salary increases and promotion, they can afford to repay the subsidy a few years later.

But if pay rises only keep pace with inflation, these borrowers will find it difficult to meet the larger mortgage costs as well as paying higher prices for the rest of their household expenses.

This could intensify an already worsening arrears problem. Last year, serious arrears rose sharply, with societies blaming high interest rates for the first time, instead of the traditional causes of debt problems such as unemployment and marriage breakdown.

Monthly repayments at the

Mr Rob Skinner, of the Nationwide Anglia building society, said: "The early schemes had very much a short-term benefit and borrowers were faced with a hefty rise in payments after the second year."

The Nationwide scheme cuts interest by 3 per cent initially but then increases payments gradually over the next four years. From the fifth year, borrowers begin repaying the deferred interest.

He added: "On a £35,000 loan that represents a 7 per cent increase in repayments each year, assuming interest rates stay the same."

The Cheshire building society operates a different type of low-start scheme which does not increase the overall debt.

Mr Paul Knight, assistant general manager marketing, said: "On a £48,000 mortgage we would lend 100 per cent but use the 5 per cent deposit of £2,400 to reduce the cost in the early years. In the first year we use half, £1,200, to cut payments by £100 a month and then a quarter in each of the next two years. For someone who started this a year ago, their payments would now be increasing by £50 a month to take account of this."

The Halifax first introduced a similar low-start mortgage eight years ago. A 5 per cent deposit is used to subsidize monthly repayments for the first three years. A borrower of £50,000 just moving into year four will have to pay an extra £66.67 a month, including a 1 per cent increase in the mortgage rate.

The normal endowment mortgage costs £674 a month,



which means that over five years the low-start borrower pays £4,000 less in repayments.

With a low-start mortgage, this £4,000 is added to the loan for the remainder of the period. Interest is therefore payable on a higher amount. After 25 years, the low-start will have cost £25,000 more.

The Chelsea building society's deferred interest scheme discounts repayments in year one by 40 per cent, reducing annually until year five when they are back to 100 per cent. The under-payments are added to the loan outstanding.

For a £60,000 endowment loan, the interest-only payments in year one are £404, rising by £100 each year, on top of any rise in interest rates. The normal endowment mortgage costs £674 a month,

Mr Colin Miller, marketing director of the Mortgage Corporation, where the standard mortgage rate is 15.65 per cent, said: "If you could have afforded the standard mortgage at today's interest rates at the outset, then you can probably afford deferred interest after capitalization because the salary increase you need over three years is quite low."

"The mean time salaries will have gone up on average 8 or 9 per cent a year so the ability to service a loan will have increased."

"People whose incomes have remained constant may have a problem, but we see this as a scheme for people who have a reasonable expectation of income rising."

Margaret Dibben

BRIEFINGS

■ Manulife, part of Manufacturers Life, the Canadian insurance group, has launched a policy which pays out if someone becomes seriously ill. The Extra Security Plan, a dread disease policy, may appeal to housewives since it is not restricted to salary earners. Mortgage Manager Extra, the same scheme linked to a homeloan, pays out the value of the mortgage with an extra 10 per cent on top.

■ Skipton building society has introduced a low-start mortgage with a discount of 2 per cent in the first year and 1 per cent in the second. At present rates, borrowers would pay 13.4 per cent in year one and 14.4 per cent the following year. But they pay for the difference from year three onwards, when an extra 0.5 per cent is charged over the basic mortgage rate. Loans start at £15,000 and there is no maximum.

■ Bradford & Bingley building society has launched an offshore account which pays gross interest and regular income. The Maximiser independent Income account pays gross interest of 14.25 per cent on balances between £5,000 and £250,000. Interest can be paid into a saver's bank

or building society account in Britain, unlike many gross accounts which will not pay interest until after 6 April 1991.

■ Lloyds Bank launched a new range of accounts for students this week – with a few extra perks thrown in. Any first year full-time student who opens an account this year will be given a free Young Person's Railcard and Eurocheque card. Currency and travellers cheques will be issued free of commission. There is an interest-free overdraft of up to £300, and interest of 7 percent is paid on accounts in credit. The Graduate Account offers an overdraft of up to £1,000 at preferential rates.

■ Former convicts starting a new life can insure their homes through a new policy from Willis Wrightson, the Bristol insurance broker. The policy, open to ex-offenders with a record of non-violent crimes, covers buildings, contents, credit cards and bicycles, among other things. There is a 25 per cent no-claims discount after the first year, and a 40 per cent discount after the second year.

A limited offer for as little as £5,000 invested.

12%

net p.a.

fixed for 6 months.

If you have £5,000 or more to invest, our new Fixed Rate Deposit offers a high guaranteed return, with no risks.

For those with £50,000 or more to invest (up to a maximum of £250,000) interest will be paid gross, at 15.4% p.a.

The conditions couldn't be simpler: our rates are fixed for six months, at which point your

Deposit will mature and interest will be paid.

After your initial deposit, we ask that you make no withdrawals until maturity.

But if you really do need to get at cash in an emergency, we'll be happy to consider your request.

To qualify, applications must bear a postmark no later than 1 June 1990. Please complete and

return the form to Lloyds Bank Plc, Personal Banking Centre, PO Box 217, 72 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3BT. Telephone 071-356 1922.

We will then confirm receipt by letter. This offer is open to both customers and non-customers.



THE THOROUGHBRED BANK.

The interest rate quoted is on an annual basis, although the account is for a six month term and interest will be apportioned accordingly. The deposit (minimum £5,000, maximum £250,000) is for a fixed term of six months during which no additional deposits or withdrawals are permitted. Basic rate tax is deemed to have been deducted from interest unless the depositor is eligible to receive gross interest and interest is added to the principal on maturity. Interest is calculated on a daily basis and the deposit matures on the next available working day six months after the date of deposit. The Bank may, at any time, refuse to open or continue an account or refuse any deposit. The Bank reserves the right to withdraw the offer (without notice) at any time before the closing date (16/7/90). Lloyds Bank Plc is a member of IMRO.

FIXED RATE DEPOSIT APPLICATION FORM

I/We wish to open a Fixed Rate Deposit and enclose a cheque for £_____ payable to Lloyds Bank Plc Fixed Rate Deposit. I/We agree to abide by the terms and conditions. I understand that references will be taken where an account is not maintained with Lloyds Bank.

My/Our sorting code is _____

(this will be found in your cheque book)

Full name(s) Mr. Mrs. Miss _____

Address _____

Daytime telephone number _____ Date of Birth _____

Net rate interest of 12% p.a. will be paid on amounts up to £49,999 for UK residents but gross interest of 15.4% p.a. will be paid on deposits of £50,000 or over. Gross interest is also available to non-residents for amounts under £50,000 and if you qualify for gross interest please tick box

I/We agree that the above and any other information relating to me/us supplied orally, or in writing, at any time by me/us or third parties (eg Credit Reference Agencies) may be passed to any of the Bank's subsidiaries and held indefinitely. Such information may be used by the Bank and any of its subsidiaries for general business purposes including making credit decisions and marketing other services and products. Signature _____ Date _____

(Where there are two or more parties to the account, instructions will be accepted from any party whose signature appears above.)

FAMILY MONEY

Low-starts come home to roost

11.25%
NET FOR
5 YEARS.
Definitely,
absolutely,
positively
guaranteed.

The Maximum Income Bond from Hill Samuel. Whatever happens to interest rates, our rate stands. Set in concrete, cast in bronze. 11.25% net of basic rate tax for 5 years.

Your capital is guaranteed, too.

If you're between £5,000 and £1 million to invest, call 081-686 3011 now or complete the coupon. This is an offer definitely not to be missed.

(This offer may be withdrawn at any time.)

To: Stephen Bridges, District Manager, Hill Samuel Investment Services Ltd., FREEPOST, Croydon CR9 9EQ. Tel: 081-686 3011.

Please telephone me to discuss the Maximum Income Bond.

Please send me details about the Maximum Income Bond for professional advice.

My available capital is: _____

Name: _____ Address: _____ Postcode: _____ Tel: _____

TT 19/05/90

Report & Accounts available at

41 Cheval Place, London SW7 1EW

HILL SAMUEL® INVESTMENT SERVICES A MEMBER OF LAUTRO AND IMRO

1990
MAY
1st Bo

مكذا من الأصل

FAMILY MONEY

SIB report indicts Manx government

Opinion 150

THIS week's announcement by the Isle of Man government that it will make "modest" ex gratia payments to depositors in the collapsed Savings & Investment Bank is unlikely to pacify investors in the Douglas-based bank, which closed its doors in 1982, owing £42 million.

The trial on fraud charges of eight bank directors and officials was halted a fortnight ago when the judge ruled that there had been undue delay. The Manx government has now proposed an inquiry to look into its own response to the bank's failure.

The inquiry will not examine the conduct of the Manx authorities before the bank closed, but an unpublished report — of which Family Money has seen a copy — does explore exactly this. It reveals that:

* The then-Manx government supported SIB at a time when the bank was involved in tax fraud.

* The government ignored warnings from inside and outside the SIB that it was insolvent.

The report was prepared by a lawyer and two accountants, appointed as inspectors by the Isle of Man High Court at the request of Mr William Dawson, the island's Treasurer.

The inspectors' report has never been published, though the current Manx government has said it does intend to make

it public eventually. More than 500 pages long, it represents three-and-a-half years' work.

The report reveals how UK Inland Revenue officials obtained a Manx court order requiring the SIB to disclose details of two accounts. But the bank won an appeal against the disclosure orders.

The inspectors also found that the quarterly returns appeared simply to have been filed.

"There was no record of any analysis of, or comment upon,

those returns, or on SIB's activities generally," the report says.

From mid-1980 onwards, the quarterly returns became incomplete and included fluctuations which, the inspectors say, should have led to enquiries from the Treasury.

"We can find no evidence of enquiry being made," they say. By February 1981 the bank, according to its own quarterly figures, was actually insolvent. Further figures in August and November confirmed this. Again, no enquiries were made.

Since 1982 the island has

won back the confidence of domestic and external investors by strengthening its laws and establishing a Financial Supervision Commission headed by Mr Jim Neales, a former Bank of England official.

In some respects, Manx supervision of the banking and investment industry is now tougher than that on the British mainland.

But investors whose funds were lost when the bank failed are not to be satisfied by any

number of improvements to the system which let them down.

Miss Gwendoline Lamb of Middlesbrough, Cleveland, who lost £30,000, said this week: "They are giving a nod and a wink to depositors, saying that we will be given ex gratia payments, but this is simply not good enough. Anything short of full refund would be a disgrace."

Tony Hetherington

Financial foot in the door

By Lindsay Cook

BROKERS and other investment salesmen are offering to draft wills in a bid to drum up business. Others are telephoning people at home to offer advice on inheritance tax.

Both developments are a sign of the desperately flat housing market and high interest rates which have cut the number of endowment policies being sold and reduced the amount of spare cash available for investment.

The helpful offers are designed as an entree to new clients and as a way of finding out about their existing assets and investments.

Those offering to draft wills at a special cheap rate or for free may contact the customer later, and with information gleaned in the process will often tell the customers that they need life assurance policies.

The inheritance tax planners will try to sell life assurance to cover any potential tax bill and possibly other investments.

By providing a service first they gain the confidence of the clients and their gratitude.

Regulators are concerned about some of the schemes which are being used as a way round the cold-calling rules of the Securities and Investments Board and the Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation.

Under SIB's conduct of

business rules, the purpose of any call or approach that has not been previously agreed should immediately be stated. In the case of someone offering inheritance tax planning they should mention they may also try to sell life assurance.

A SIB spokesman said the rise in the incidence of such cold calling was the result of the shortage of mortgage business, which meant that brokers were looking for new openings.

"Anyone not identifying what their motives are when making a call is not complying with the rules."

One couple were left feeling they would die debtors despite owning a £200,000 house, if they did not take out a life assurance policy.

The wife said she received a telephone call one evening from a broker, who they had never dealt with before, asking if she was aware that inheritance tax starts at £128,000 and that the couple lived in a property worth considerably more than that.

"He asked if he could come and talk to us and I said straightforwardly, 'If you think we have got a lot of money I have to tell you that you haven't.'

The broker did not tell the couple, who are approaching retirement, where he obtained their names from. He took down information about their earnings, ages and assets and debts.

"This made us feel we would be leaving our son with debts."

The 1990 M&G Year Book

FREE

40 pages of facts, figures and performance statistics on lump sum and savings plan investment in M&G unit trusts managed by M&G Securities Limited.

To: The M&G Group, M&G House, Victoria Road, Chelmsford CM1 1FB. Tel: (0245) 266266. (Business Hours)

Please send me a free copy of the M&G Year Book 1990.

NO SALESMAN WILL CALL

Mr/Mrs/ Miss	INITIALS	SURNAM
ADDRESS		
POSTCODE		ECGU

The M&G Group is the winner of the 1989 Money Management magazine large unit trust group of the year award and fund management group of the decade award.

Not registered to residents of the Republic of Ireland.



BRITAIN'S LEADING UNIT TRUST GROUP

**Property funds slump in value**

By Jon Ashworth

INVESTORS in Allied Dunbar property funds saw the value of their holdings plunge this week, following continuing difficulties in the property market.

The group has down-valued its life and pension funds by 8 per cent and 9 per cent respectively, wiping millions of pounds off their value. The move affects 100,000 inves-

tors. The Allied Dunbar life fund is valued at £330 million, including contributions from the group's property investment bond. The pension fund is valued at £455 million.

Property funds have been down-valued several times in the past 15 years, but investors were critical of the size of the present fall.

Mr Bob Allen, a divisional manager in Allied Dunbar's

INDEPENDENT TAXATION?

YOU NEED FINANCIAL ADVICE THAT'S INDEPENDENT.

For a list of ten local independent financial advisers who will offer impartial advice on your financial future, call the HOTLINE number, or complete the coupon. No salesman will call.

CALL 081-200 3000 OR COMPLETE THE COUPON

Send the coupon to IFA Promotions Limited, Unit 3, Air Call Business Centre, Colindale Lane, London NW8 8BW.

T15

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PLEASE STATE POSTCODE _____



125%
NET PA.
and a
5% guarantee.
With the Woolwich

With our Premium Investment Plus account you get a very high rate, 12.5% net paid annually (16.67% gross equivalent*).

And you also get a guaranteed premium of at least 5% above our ordinary share rate for 12 months from the date you open your account.

No other top ten society offers you a better guarantee. All you need is to invest £10,000 and to leave it with us for a year. (With some accounts you have to tie up your money for two years or more).

Call in at your local Woolwich branch. Or send the coupon with your cheque today to:

Woolwich Building Society, FREEPOST (DT98), Bexleyheath, Kent DA7 6BR.

So why aren't you with the Woolwich?

I We enclose £_____ to invest in a Woolwich Premium Investment PLUS account. (Minimum £10,000).
□ Please send me further details of the Woolwich Premium Investment PLUS account.

Signed _____

Full Name(s) _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

T12

WOOLWICH
BUILDING SOCIETY

P5

*For purposes of the basic rate of 25%. Full terms and conditions are available on request. Rates may vary. Once this account ceases to be on offer, no further investment can be made in the account until the one year guaranteed premium period ends. No withdrawals from a Premium Investment Plus account are permitted for one year after your account is opened though you will be able to make withdrawals without notice or interest penalty for a period of 90 days. After that withdrawals can be made without notice, provided £10,000 remains in the account. For lower balances, there will be a penalty equivalent to 90 days' interest on the amount withdrawn. Penalty free withdrawals allowed with 90 days' notice notice. All withdrawals subject to normal branch terms. Woolwich Building Society, Corporate Headquarters, Westing Street, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7RF. Rates effective from 5th March 1990.

Portfolio

PLATINUM

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below the week's *Portfolio* price changes (today's are on page 21).

Stock	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sunday
1 +8 +8 +8 +7 +7 +6							
2 +7 +5 +4 +4 +4 +6							
3 +5 +8 +3 +5 +4 +5							
4 +6 +7 +4 +6 +5 +5							
5 +4 +8 +3 +7 +6 +6							
6 +5 +5 +3 +3 +7 +7							
7 +6 +5 +7 +5 +5 +5							
8 +6 +8 +5 +6 +5 +5							
9 +4 +7 +2 +7 +6 +6							
10 +7 +8 +8 +5 +7 +7							
11 +6 +6 +6 +4 +9 +9							
12 +4 +8 +4 +5 +7 +7							
13 +8 +4 +6 +5 +8 +8							
14 +6 +8 +3 +4 +8 +8							
15 +5 +7 +3 +7 +6 +6							
16 +4 +6 +2 +6 +6 +6							
17 +4 +7 +3 +8 +8 +8							
18 +5 +7 +3 +5 +7 +7							
19 +5 +7 +4 +4 +7 +7							
20 +5 +8 +3 +8 +7 +7							
21 +3 +6 +4 +4 +8 +8							
22 +5 +6 +3 +3 +8 +8							
23 +5 +4 +6 +5 +7 +7							
24 +6 +5 +3 +4 +6 +6							
25 +5 +8 +3 +7 +8 +8							
26 +4 +6 +3 +7 +6 +6							
27 +7 +5 +6 +4 +6 +6							
28 +7 +5 +5 +5 +9 +9							
29 +4 +8 +4 +6 +6 +6							
30 +5 +5 +5 +4 +7 +7							
31 +4 +6 +2 +1 +7 +7							
32 +5 +6 +5 +5 +7 +7							
33 +6 +5 +7 +6 +8 +8							
34 +5 +8 +4 +7 +5 +5							
35 +5 +8 +4 +6 +6 +6							
36 +8 +6 +8 +4 +8 +8							
37 +7 +7 +4 +5 +9 +9							
38 +6 +5 +8 +7 +7 +7							
39 +3 +7 +4 +5 +6 +6							
40 +5 +4 +7 +6 +7 +7							
41 +4 +8 +3 +6 +6 +6							
42 +5 +7 +3 +8 +7 +7							
43 +7 +4 +7 +5 +8 +8							
44 +6 +7 +4 +4 +6 +6							



Berlin: one wall that has opened to foreign investors

THE SAVE & PROSPER **PEP**

NOW YOU
CAN INVEST
UP TO
£6,000

- Now you can invest up to £6,000 tax-free in a Save & Prosper Personal Equity Plan — and take advantage of your full annual PEP allowance.
- With our PEP you can choose to invest in a Unit Trust, a Managed Portfolio of leading British companies, or select your own shares.
- Save & Prosper's Managed Portfolio PEP was the top performing PEP of 1989*.
- To find out more, just post the coupon, talk to your financial adviser or ring Moneyline.

THE PRICE OF SHARES AND THE INCOME FROM THEM MAY GO DOWN AS WELL AS UP AND PAST PERFORMANCE IS NOT A GUARANTEE OF FUTURE SUCCESS. TAX CONCESSIONS ARE SUBJECT TO STATUTORY CHANGE.

*Source: The IWM Company

FREE MONEYLINE 0800 282 101

7.30 a.m. - 5.30 p.m. 7 DAYS A WEEK

To: Save & Prosper Group Limited, FREEPOST: Rounford RA11 1BR.

Please send me details of Save & Prosper's PEP. I am interested in your Unit Trust PEP □ Managed Portfolio PEP □ Feeding Plan PEP □ Retirement PEP □

Mr/Mrs/Ms _____

Address _____ Postcode _____

TELEPHONE NO. _____
No salesman will call. If you're not our Customer Advice Service may telephone to ask if you would like further information on our Unit Trust PEP.

**SAVE &
PROSPER**
THE INVESTMENT HOUSE ■
Member of IMRO and Laurus

Mortgage aimed at converts

By Jon Ashworth

BEAR STEAM'S HOME LOANS, one of the new breed of mortgage lenders, has unveiled a scheme which combines the advantages of fixed-rate and variable loans.

The Passport mortgage is a variable rate loan that may be converted to a long-term fixed-rate loan at any time when offered in the first five years, without early redemption penalties.

Miss Marcia Myerberg, managing director of Bear Stearns Home Loans, said the new scheme was the best alternative to a fixed rate

mortgage while interest rates stay high.

"This is the first truly convertible mortgage in the UK," said Miss Myerberg.

"We have created what we believe is the ideal product for today's market which is difficult to call."

New borrowers who take out a Passport mortgage will be given first choice on any fixed rate loans launched by Bear Stearns in the next five years.

The present rate is 14.9 per cent, including a 0.75 per cent discount, but borrowers who

wish to cut costs further have two deferred interest schemes to choose from.

The first cuts 3 per cent off the standard rate in the first three years, which has to be paid off later. This works out at 11.9 per cent at present.

The second scheme gives a 6 per cent discount in the first year, 4 per cent in the second, and 1 per cent in the third. The rate for new borrowers is 8.9 per cent.

Borrowers pay an acceptance fee of 1 per cent of the value of the loan, but this is deducted from the fee payable when they switch to a fixed-rate loan.

The acceptance fee on an £85,000 mortgage would be £850 but there are no early redemption penalties.

Passport borrowers also pay a 2 per cent fee if they switch to a fixed-rate loan.

Like the 25-year fixed-rate mortgage launched in January, Passport will be sold through a panel of life offices. They are: The LAS Group, Norwich Union, Royal Life, Sun Alliance and John Charcol, the broker.

UNIT TRUSTS FROM £25 A MONTH

Ring our free Moneyline from 9.30 a.m.- 5.30 p.m., 7 days a week, on

0800 282 101

**SAVE &
PROSPER**
THE INVESTMENT HOUSE ■

Warburg London is that a nephew of the Hamburg firm's owner founded the London group.

As a comparison: while the total market capitalization of companies in Britain is roughly equal to the country's Gross National Product, in Germany it represents only about a quarter of GNP.

Herr Mendl Merck, who manages Brown Shipley's £1.5 million German unit trust, says that thanks to a new breed of corporate finance manager, German companies are becoming more willing than in the past to seek stock market funding.

But he does not foresee any immediate flood of new issues. Last year, the German market saw 24 new issues, compared with just five in 1985.

MM Warburg is forecasting another 23 this year, with a further 22 during 1991 and 1992.

Herr Mendl Merck adds that foreigners currently pushing about £1 billion net a month into the German market may find themselves having to buy non-voting preference shares, as owners of companies often use these as a way of raising money without losing control.

Meanwhile, a chart tracking the FAZ (Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung) index and net purchases of German shares by foreigners shows a clear correlation. Ever since 1985, the main peaks and troughs in foreign net buying have practically matched highs and lows in the index.

In other words, in Germany, foreigners have done most of their buying at the top and most of their selling at the bottom.

Lockton directors fend off calls to stand down

By Jon Ashworth

DIRECTORS OF Lockton Retail Stores, the troubled retailer, fended off calls for their resignation at a meeting in London this week, and are to dispose of two loss-making assets.

The company, part of a series of Business Expansion Scheme companies sponsored by Guinness Mahon, is selling the assets to Mr David Kosh, its chief executive.

Lockton Retail Stores wrote to shareholders two weeks ago warning that it expects to make a £2.3 million loss in the year to January.

Angry shareholders called for the company to be wound up, but a motion in favour of the disposals — including a vote by Mr Kosh who is the majority shareholder — was

finally carried unanimously. Many of the 800 shareholders in Lockton Retail Stores, the troubled retailer, fended off calls for their resignation at a meeting in London this week, and are to dispose of two loss-making assets.

The company, part of a series of Business Expansion Scheme companies sponsored by Guinness Mahon, is selling the assets to Mr David Kosh, its chief executive.

Lockton Retail Stores wrote to shareholders two weeks ago warning that it expects to make a £2.3 million loss in the year to January.

Angry shareholders called for the company to be wound up, but a motion in favour of the disposals — including a vote by Mr Kosh who is the majority shareholder — was

FRAMLINGTON

Continental Smaller Companies

A NEW UNIT TRUST INVESTING IN EUROPE

Europe is at the centre stage of world events. Barriers are coming down, markets are opening up, business confidence is growing — and 1992 is still to come! Recent developments in Eastern Europe highlight still further the tremendous investment potential in the West.

The new Framlington Continental Smaller Companies Fund aims to capitalise on these opportunities by seeking out smaller companies with prospects of good long-term growth.

Scattered across the continent there are scores of smaller companies whose share prices do not reflect their real worth. Yet many of these lesser-known businesses are well-placed to satisfy the changing demands of the modern, dynamic Europe. Framlington believes the time is right to invest in these companies before their shares appreciate.

Framlington fund managers are renowned for their ability to find companies with previously undiscovered value. They know the best investments are not necessarily the best-known names. On the contrary, past records show that smaller companies are better able to adapt to changing circumstances than their more illustrious rivals. And — starting as they often do from lower capital and market share bases — they can have the edge when it comes to growth.

Framlington has an enviable reputation for selective investment in smaller companies. Also, as an indication of its expertise in Europe, the existing European Fund, although not specifically focusing on smaller companies, has consistently been in the top 25% of all European unit trusts over 4, 3, 2 and 1 years as at 30 April 1990. (Source: Micropal).

To mark the new fund's launch, Framlington is setting the price of units at 50 pence until Friday 1 June 1990. To apply for this special offer, complete the coupon and return it to Framlington Unit Management, to arrive not later than 5pm on that date. The minimum investment is £500.

NEW INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY

If you return this form direct to Framlington you have no right to cancel the contract under the Financial Services (Consolidation) Rules 1986.

FRAMLINGTON
RENNOWNED FOR RESULTS

FAMILY MONEY

Wall of privacy set to crumble in German firms

By Barbara Ellis

GERMANY could turn out to be as much of a let-down for today's investors as for their grandfathers. Already enough of the Berlin Wall to constitute the Great Wall of China has been sold abroad, mainly to be giftwrapped.

Mr Ronald and Mrs Nancy Reagan, the former US first family, recently took delivery of a wall chunk measuring one metre by three, while unit trust groups such as Royal London have handed out millimetre-sized morsels to publicize fund launches.

And fund managers launching European smaller companies unit trusts, seemingly every week, appear to be stretching their arguments just as far.

Mr Crispin Odey, the manager of Baring German Growth Trust, for example, claimed recently that the new generation of Germans was "richer, noisier, more triumphant and more amusing."

Mr Tristan Hiltgarth, manager of Framlington's Euro-Asian smaller companies fund, is a little more blunt. "If Gorbachev goes we have had it," he says.

However, Mr Odey and Mr Hiltgarth have an investment belief in common. Both profess confidence that Germany's smaller companies will abandon the habits of 200 years — secretive borrowing from banks — and go to their stock market to raise money. This, they claim, will provide buying opportunities for their funds.

But other professional investors point out there are important differences between Germany and Britain or the US.

"It's not like here where anyone with two pennies to rub together can get a quote and then go bust," says Mr Timothy Plaut, German market analyst with Warburg Securities, who sees more small companies coming to the market, but relatively slowly.

At MM Warburg, Brinkmann Wirtz in Hamburg, Herr Wolf Mendl Merck points out that small companies are not the only ones to prefer privacy.

FAMILY MONEY

Angus has brought you a non-taxable gift.



GEO

Guide to less taxing saving

By Lindsay Cook

THIS year about 5 million non-tax-payers were created with the introduction of independent taxation. Housewives, who are not waged, can receive interest on savings and investments up to £3,005 so long as they have no other taxable income.

Just what is taxable and what is not confuse many savers. But help is at hand from National Savings, which this week published its guide to savings for non-taxpayers.

The department is the only major British financial institution which can currently pay interest gross. But from next January building societies and banks will be able to offer Tax-Exempt Special Savings Accounts. These will pay interest gross and free of tax.

In April composite rate tax will be scrapped enabling non-taxpayers to re-

ceive interest gross after the beginning of the 1991/2 financial year.

Offshore accounts have also multiplied and accounts which do not pay interest until next year are being sold strongly. It is, therefore, important for savers to know whether they can take advantage of the new regime or if their money should stay put in a savings account with interest being deducted.

Non-taxable income includes most scholarships, local authority student grants, most legally-binding maintenance payments, the proceeds of qualifying life policies, annuities paid to holders of certain gallantry awards and dividend income from personal equity plans.

The guide, giving full details, is available from the Sales Information Unit, Bonds and Stock Office, Government Buildings, Lytham St Annes FY8 1YN or telephone 0800 868700.

When dearly-departed leaves the bills unpaid

Lindsay Cook finds that where there's no will, it's important to know the way to handle debts left by the deceased

everything the deceased owned should go towards paying the debts.

"The clothes should not be sent to Oxfam but be sold to pay the debt. Any small keepsakes should be declared to the creditors and the relative should offer to pay for them."

He advised any relative in this situation to inform the creditors straightforwardly and to leave it to them to apply for letters of administration.

Local authorities, for example, can apply for a grant of letters of administration if a community charge bill has not been paid.

Relatives should write to all the creditors and show all the assets and liabilities and invite them to share what money there is.

"If they were to go to a solicitor a grant of probate would cost them £300.

"Anyone in this situation should write to the creditors and say there is insufficient to pay all liabilities and explain what there is to be shared."

"It is dangerous to get too involved. If in any doubt they should go carefully and not interfere," said Mr Hamilton.

Even if a will were left appointing the relative as executor there is no duty to deal with an estate which is insolvent, he added.

"You can get a will involving a property worth £500,000 and find a capital gains tax bill, and other debts, and

rapidly find there is nothing in the estate although a bill for many thousands has been incurred."

Banks all deal with the accounts of deceased customers differently, but it is proposed that a standard procedure be adopted in the banking code of practice which should be published next year.

At the National Westminster Bank a spokesman said it was fairly rare for there to be no will and for a customer to be insolvent.

"In the circumstance the relative should contact the bank and we will take as practical a view as possible."

"We don't want to do anything wrong but we don't necessarily want to pay off the debts ourselves."

People can help their relatives by keeping a list of their assets with other family documents, so that these can be readily compared with any outstanding bills.

If a relative is unsure about whether they have located all the creditors they should advertise locally and this cost can be met by the estate, said the NatWest spokesman.

LETTERS

Item debited from account without a mandate

From R. C. Ashworth
Sir. Today I received the monthly statement from my bank, the Royal Bank of Scotland.

On checking through it I found that an insurance company had charged me, via direct debit, the sum of £78 which I had not authorised. A telephone call to the bank confirmed that no mandate existed for this charge and the

bank agreed to re-credit my account with the sum.

Not only has this cost me a lengthy telephone call, a lot of annoyance and the interest on £78 for one month, it calls into question the desirability of the direct debit system as a normal method of payment.

Surely it should not be possible for a bank to make a payment without a mandate, nor for a company to make a

Gilts offer solution for maturing NSCs

From C.M. Kingsmill
Sir, Lindsay Cook gave advice from several sources on what a reader with maturing National Savings Certificates should do with the money. I am sure the reader concerned has been attracted by certificates because he knows precisely where he stands in say five years time and income is

obviously of secondary importance. The ideal solution is low interest short dated gilts.

He will know in x-years how much his capital will have grown and will in the meantime receive a relatively low income, and no capital gains tax to pay.

Yours faithfully,
C. M. KINGSMILL,
17 Redbridge Lane West,
Wandsworth, London E11.

Quarterly payouts hit charitable trusts

From Mr Alan Diamond
Sir, The introduction of quarterly dividend payments is adding to the expenses of properly constituted charitable trusts. It would be cost effective if all equity investments held by charitable trusts could receive dividend income gross rather than net, saving the trustees the problem of reclaiming the appropriate tax credit. This would save expenses to all parties including the Revenue.

This need is now more apparent since a small number of prominent UK companies such as British Petroleum and SmithKline Beecham, who recently reported their results, have decided recently to pay quarterly, rather than half-yearly dividends.

This exacerbates the problem, for it affects the trusts' cash flow, especially if tax credits are not claimed upon receipt. However in so doing, once a trustee instructs their accountant or lawyer to claim the deducted tax credit, the trust incurs its professional adviser fees. On the other hand, a charitable trust can invest in "gilts" and apply to have the stock registered so that the trust receives payment of a gross rather than a

net dividend at source. Why should equities be treated differently?

What I believe is required, is an amendment to the Finance Bill so that registered charities, who return annual audited accounts, would receive all future dividend payments gross. This is possible in the United States where charities can so "file".

Members of Parliament should be instrumental in seeking to overcome any possible opposition from the Inland Revenue. For if charities receive all dividend payments gross they can lessen their charitable distributions without incurring additional financial penalties whilst keeping their costs to a minimum. To leave the reclaiming of tax credit in abeyance until the end of the financial year would not be acting with due diligence.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN DIAMOND,
29 York Terrace West,
Regent's Park,
London NW1.
May 9.

Readers' letters for publication are welcome but The Times regrets it cannot give individual replies or advice.

SELF-EMPLOYED WITHOUT A PENSION?

Ring our free Moneyline from 9.30 a.m.-5.30 p.m., 7 days a week, on

0800 282 101

SAVE &
PROSPER

THE INVESTMENT HOUSE

MULTIPLY YOUR SAVINGS TAX FREE



Combine the tax efficiency of a PEP with Henderson's investment trust management expertise and your savings could multiply successfully.

The PEP allows your savings to accumulate with no capital gains tax to pay on profits and no income tax on dividends.

You can invest from as little as £60 per month or a lump sum of up to £6,000. Please fill in the coupon below for full details of how you can make your money grow tax free in leaps and bounds.

Henderson also offers an Investment Trust Share Saving Scheme.

Please remember that the value of investments can go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount you invest. Also, the levels and bases of taxation can change.

To: Investment Trust Division, Henderson Administration Limited, FREEPOST, London EC2B 1SK.
Please send me full information on: Henderson Investment Trust PEP Henderson Investment Trust Share Saving Scheme
(No-one will call on you.)

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

My Financial Adviser is _____

STRT

Henderson Financial Management Limited. Member of IMRO.

HENDERSON
THE INVESTMENT MANAGERS

TIME DEPOSIT

Halifax Building Society announces an attractive opportunity for those with substantial sums of money to invest.

It's called a Time Deposit, a high return investment for sums of £50,000 or more.

It offers significant advantages for the astute investor.

For example, interest is paid gross,

NOW THERE'S A SECURE WAY INTO THE BIG TIME.

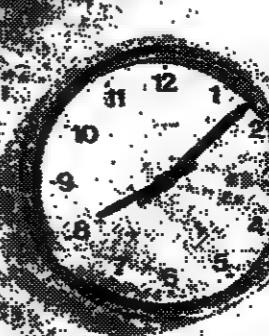
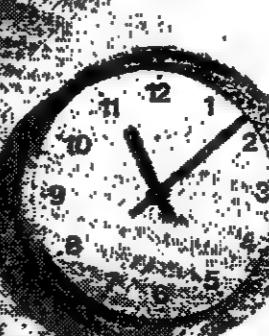
which can make this a very tax-efficient investment. Especially with independent taxation for husbands and wives being introduced on April 6th.

Then there's the interest rate. Rates are set to reflect money market conditions (you can check the going rate at Halifax branches) which means that there's the potential for a very high return indeed.

What's more, your rate is fixed for the full term of the Deposit.

As for the term itself, that's entirely up to you; you can choose any period from 1 month to one year. (With the option of reinvesting the capital or capital and interest)

If you'd like to talk more about Time Deposits, why not call into your nearest Halifax branch? It's your open door to a very attractive return.



HALIFAX

Stroud and Swindon favoured over C&G in building society merger

The decision that split a village

**Narrow victory
in the battle for
Frome Selwood
is not the end
of the fight.
A report by
Jon Ashworth**

Members of the tiny Frome Selwood building society have given warning that they will withdraw their savings in protest after plans to merge with the Stroud and Swindon Society were narrowly approved this week.

The 14,600 Frome members will receive a 2 per cent bonus on the value of their savings once the merger goes through on July 1.

But the decision to merge has upset many members who had favoured a rival bid from the Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society. The C&G had tried to tempt savers with the prospect of a 3 per cent bonus as well as an attractive discount on mortgages. And it had set aside £360,000 for the Frome directors, including £81,000 for Mr Roy Walwin, the chairman.

The merger debate has divided local residents and left the sleepy Somerset town basking in an unprecedented level of publicity. Many of the 200 members who attended Thursday's meeting, held in the local cinema, were more concerned about how much money they could make than whether or not the society could keep its local identity. Before the meeting, many members gave warning that they would withdraw their savings if the decision to merge with the Stroud and Swindon was approved. They planned to wait until the bonus payments had been made before taking their funds elsewhere.

Mr Don Fletcher, who has lived in Frome for 14 years, said he hoped Frome Selwood would not lose its character. "It is a nice friendly society.



Merging on fair and traditional terms: Roy Walwin, the Frome chairman, who turned down a bonus offer of £80,972 from the C&G

We know the people and you can talk to them," Mr Bruno Sclar, who had £50,000 with the society, said he was unhappy with the outcome, adding: "This way, you only have one chance. It's yes or no and it's not democratic." Mr Jeremy Cross, a local councillor who voted against the merger, said the society was well managed and well run and should remain so. "I feel the management has been honourable but misguided. I believe you have to go for the best financial offer in the interest of members."

The decision to proceed with the merger was finally approved by a narrow margin. To proceed, 75 per cent of voting members had to vote in favour. After proxies were counted, 76.2 per cent voted for the motion — in stark contrast to other building society mergers, where up to

The outcome of the C&G trying to "buy" the support of Frome directors depended on the 2,500 proxy votes received from members. Mr Trevor Morris, who led a group of members protesting against the merger, said several had been sent the wrong proxy forms by mistake. Forms sent by Frome and the Stroud and Swindon to their own members looked very similar. But Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte, which distributed the forms, said no mistakes had been made. It was pointed out that any Frome member who had

98 per cent of voters have given their approval.

Mr Walwin said he was unhappy with the outcome, adding: "It is very satisfying to prove it is still possible to agree a merger on fair and traditional terms to the benefit of all members without votes being influenced by City takeover techniques."

Earlier, he had accused the C&G of trying to "buy" the support of Frome directors. Attacking what he called "the unacceptable face of building societyism," he said: £359,576 had been offered by the C&G in salary and pension entitlements. "We were not prepared to accept these inducements," he added.

Mr Walwin said he had been offered £52,240 in retirement benefits. After serving on a regional board for three years, the package would have been worth £80,972. Other

directors stood to make between £64,900 and £126,000 each if the C&G bid was accepted. Mr Walwin said the final bill would have been paid for by the Frome members, adding: "We accept that this sort of thing goes on, but we are not prepared to be bought."

He said: "The mood in the meeting was definitely against the merger. If only those present had voted, the outcome could have been very different."

The vote count revealed 1,632 savers in favour of the merger and 508 against. Of the 373 borrowers who voted, 293, 78.5 per cent, voted in favour. Mr Morris said he was prepared to take the matter of

Best deal may be societies' wisest option

By Lindsay Cook, Family Money Editor

AFTER weeks of acrimony, the Frome Selwood Permanent Building Society is to merge with the Stroud and Swindon Building Society, but the opposing members have taught the rest of the building society movement a lesson.

If they do not want to be embroiled in a messy battle over ownership, and risk having their recommendation voted out by the members, they will look to the Frome debacle and want to avoid a similar battle. If they have two offers and want to merge with the society making the lower one they will have to persuade it to improve its offer. Or if there is a feature of the better offer which they do not feel able to accept, such as job losses, they will have to negotiate so that they can recommend the best offer.

The C&G is committed to accepting the best offer for its members, whoever it comes from. Mr Andrew Longhurst, its chief executive, said: "I still believe that when directors are putting a proposition to members, the most significant point is the amount of cash it will put in the members' pockets and wallets. Suppose the C&G decides, for the sake of argument, that it wants to do a deal with the Prudential, but Sun Life has made a better offer. We would always go for the better deal."

The confirmation hearing takes place at the Building Societies' Commission on June 19 and the protesters are set to prove voting irregularities.

No other society would be wise to risk such a close call. The Frome members are lucky it will get their 2 per cent and may win a further bonus if the Stroud and Swindon in turn becomes the target of a larger society. The campaign against the merger was waged purely on the grounds of the cash bonuses.

The conversion of the Abbey National from a building society to a bank set members of other building societies on the trail of windfall gains. The Abbey's gift of 100 free shares was expected to spell the end of ordinary society mergers.

Then last November, the C&G announced its plans to merge with the Guardian Building Society and paid an average £520 to investors. Bonuses are now the order of the day. Even the savers of the troubled Peckham Building Society are to receive 0.75 per cent next month.

There are a number of small societies who have chief executives nearing retirement age whose directors must realize they do not have a future on their own. Several of them will be in talks with other societies. Too small to interest banks, insurance groups and foreign

companies, their future lies in a building society merger.

In any negotiations, their directors will have to be sure of securing the best deal for members. They will look to the Frome debacle and want to avoid a similar battle.

If they have two offers and want to merge with the society making the lower one they will have to persuade it to improve its offer. Or if there is a feature of the better offer which they do not feel able to accept, such as job losses, they will have to negotiate so that they can recommend the best offer.

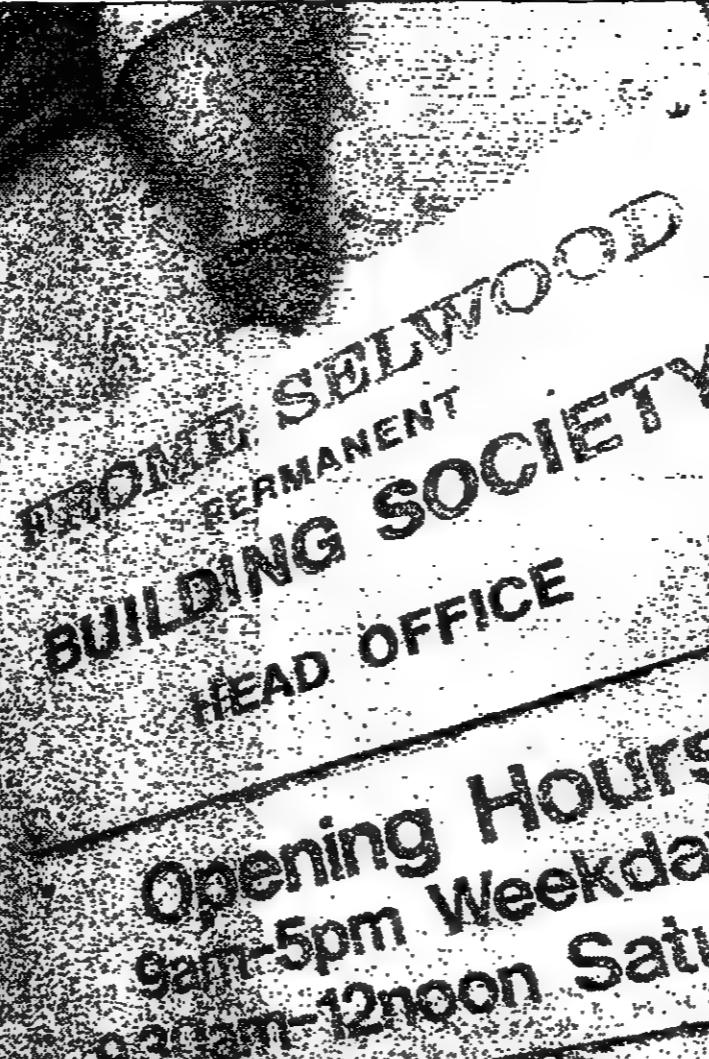
The C&G is committed to accepting the best offer for its members, whoever it comes from. Mr Andrew Longhurst, its chief executive, said: "I still believe that when directors are putting a proposition to members, the most significant point is the amount of cash it will put in the members' pockets and wallets. Suppose the C&G decides, for the sake of argument, that it wants to do a deal with the Prudential, but Sun Life has made a better offer. We would always go for the better deal."

The narrow backing for the Frome board means insurance companies, and others wanting to buy building societies, will have to pay off the reserves to the members, if not more, to be certain that their offer will not be bettered.

Dr John Wriglesworth, of UBS Phillips & Drew, predicts that a company will announce it is taking over a building society this year. There are many firms on the lookout, but they know the first to accept a bid will face similar problems to those of Abbey.

Members of societies with the highest reserve asset ratios might try to release some money in bonus form. Societies like the cash-rich National Counties, with a reserve asset ratio in excess of 20 per cent, could be requisitioned by 50 members, who each put up £10 to pay a bonus to its members. So long as the group of 50 got all the legal requirements right, they could cause a motion to be put to members.

In the meantime, a number of building societies are in talks about mergers and takeovers and all are keen to have their members' support.



G T G E N E R A L M A N A G E M E N T

Germany's future will make stockmarket history. Invest in it from £30 a month.

The opening of the Berlin Wall has meant the opening of a unique investment opportunity. With the GT Germany Fund you can share in it for as little as £30 a month. GT has been investing in West German companies who are experiencing an increased demand for their goods and services, and finding promising new ventures in East Germany, where the skilled workforce is comparatively low-paid. The GT Germany Fund is the ideal choice for a savings plan. £30 invested every month since the Fund was launched in October 1986, would have grown to £2,715 by 1.4.90, a return of 67% on the total investment of £1,620. Offer to bid (source: Micropal). Past performance cannot be considered as a guide to the

The price of units and the income from them may fluctuate. You pay a regular amount into your account each month (from £30), and you can also withdraw or add lump sums whenever you want. No hidden charges, no penalties. For further peace of mind, a twice yearly statement lists all your transactions and the value of your investments. So, as the Berlin Wall gets knocked down, your account should be building up. To find out more about the GT Germany Fund just send off the coupon.

To Lucy Fountain, Client Services Department, GT Unit Managers Ltd, FREEPOST, London EC2B 2DL. Telephone 071-929 5265. Please send me further details of the GT Germany Fund.

Name _____ Address _____ Postcode _____ TTS/MAY90

G

GT UNIT MANAGERS LTD MEMBER OF THE UNIT MANAGEMENT GROUP © 1990

You want a home security system, but you've heard that most alarms are ignored.

What do you do?

a) Move next door to the police station
b) Put extra locks on your doors (and hope no one breaks in through a window)
c) Call Telecom Security free on 0800 010 999

CALL FREE 0800 010 999 ANYTIME

Yes, I'd like to know more about how Telecom Security can protect my home and family. Please send me my free copy of your colour brochure without delay.

Mr/Mrs/Ms Initials _____ Surname _____ (QUICKLY)

Address _____

Postcode _____

Tel. (code) _____ (no.) _____

Please send to: British Telecom, Telecom Security Systems, FREEPOST 900 (85333), Bristol BS1 6ZD. No stamp needed.

DUC 099

British Telecom

It's you we answer to

* Prices may be varied at the end of the two year minimum hire period. Telecom Security Limited is a subsidiary of British Telecommunications plc.

© 1990 British Telecommunications plc

Top 100 Lists

THE TIMES

REVIEW

SECTION 3

SATURDAY MAY 19 1990

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MARK PEPPER

Passions that run backstage at Oberammergau



The housewife Virgin: Elisabeth Petre was chosen after fears of court action by local feminists

Hanging on wooden pegs behind the door of Christ's dressing-room were two crowns of thorns. It was impossible to look at them without being overcome by both awe and an almost blasphemous sense of the ludicrous; two feelings which constantly surprise the visitor to Oberammergau.

The crowns looked as though it would have been easy to prick a finger on the thorns: they evoked the violence of the old story with a physicality which was shocking. At the same time, I knew that the crowns were only stage props, with no more authenticity than the 14 power-cups stacked on a shelf nearby, ready for the Last Supper, or the assorted palm branches piled up in a basket in the corridor of Pharaoh's throne, parked like a limousine beside the stage door. There was a comic incongruity about the solemn concreteness of these relics, and about the whole highly organized masquerade.

On the shelves of the village's innumerable woodcarvers' shops, painted Virgins ranked elbow to elbow, with weirdly polytheistic effect, waiting like goddesses to be carried off in thousands by the pilgrims who will visit Oberammergau this summer, during which the villagers will fulfil the vow made by their ancestors during a plague in 1633 to put on a Passion Play every 10 years until the end of time.

But, unlike the carved host of Marys, the two crowns of thorns were not identical. One was a plaited circlet of real thorns, woven by someone with fingers which must have been both leathery and deaf; the other was a glass fibre coronet with thick, blunt thorns, which would never prick a finger but may well "read" more dramatically from the back of the stalls in the open-air theatre in which the Passion will be enacted 94 times this summer before audiences of 5,000.

The two crowns represent the old and the new. The prickly one is a reverently preserved relic (this is Catholic territory, after all) from an earlier production. It faithfully reproduces the instrument of torture and derision depicted in innumerable devotional prints and paintings. It expresses a sturdy traditional literalism. The other crown, may be less authentic, but the young director, 22-year-old Christian Stückl, hopes that it will carry its message more effectively. Village conservatives would rather see thorns represent thorns.

Arguments over stage props are only some of the bitter qurels which have surrounded Herr Stückl since he was chosen as director by the village council three years ago. For decades the play has been a focus for personal and religious squabbling, on a local and even an international scale. In post-war years, it has come under regular attack for its portrayal of the Jews. Diplomatic revisions of text and stage business have now taken some, though not all, of the sting out of this issue.

But this year's battles have still broken friendships, divided families, and brought a storm of abusive letters upon the village. Several prominent players have withdrawn from the cast in protest against the new regime, and a shed with farm equipment worth £10,000 inside, belonging to one of the leading figures in the dispute, was destroyed by fire.

If there are any villagers who are not fierce partisans on one side or the other (which is unlikely), they must be fear-

For the first time in centuries a married woman will play the Virgin Mary, but the reformers' victory has left a village divided, reports George Hill



Director: Christian Stückl

ful that the tumult may affect the future of the spectacle, which is Oberammergau's source of world fame and chief money-spinner. But the signs are that, as yet, the world's pilgrims are unperturbed by the scandals: when the show opens on Monday the whole run of the production will already have been sold out months in advance.

The focus of this year's dissonance epitomizes the way symbols tend to trip over the literal, and the transcendent tends to rub shoulders with the everyday. Crudely, the question has been whether the Virgin ought to be played by a virgin.

In Catholic Bavaria, the virginity of Christ's mother is not to be considered lightly. For at least 120 years, the community has imposed a rule that the actress who plays Mary, and all the other women acting in the play, should be unmarried, and under 35. In the past, this effectively guaranteed the virtue of the leading lady, though it often meant in practice that she was visibly 10 or 20 years younger than her Son.

More recently, the guarantee has become something of a mockery. Women hoping to play a leading role have lived in sin for years, and even had illegitimate children, so as not to forfeit their entitlement. In some ways, it is a tale of bucolic goings-on reminiscent of Britten's *Albert Herring*.

The dispute is about concepts of purity, about the social roles of men and women, and about hard cash. Inhabitants who meet the stiff residential qualifications (broadly, to be born in the village

or to have lived there for 20 years) have a right to take part in the play. Over a season, even the humblest extra who shouts "Hosanna" in the crowd is paid about £2,300 for theoretical loss of earnings, while leading members of the cast receive up to £11,000. The restrictions on marriage and age saved the municipality from having to pay as many as 1,000 otherwise eligible citizens.

"This is a holy, money-making village," one long-term resident told me. "Some of the older members of the cast put on a great air of piety, but for most of the younger members it is not so much a religious event as a source of excitement. The quarrels are part of the atmosphere. What you see on stage is very holy, but behind the scenes, things go on that are not so holy. There is not actually a bordello here, but you can find most other kinds of sin if you look you can even buy heroin, for instance."

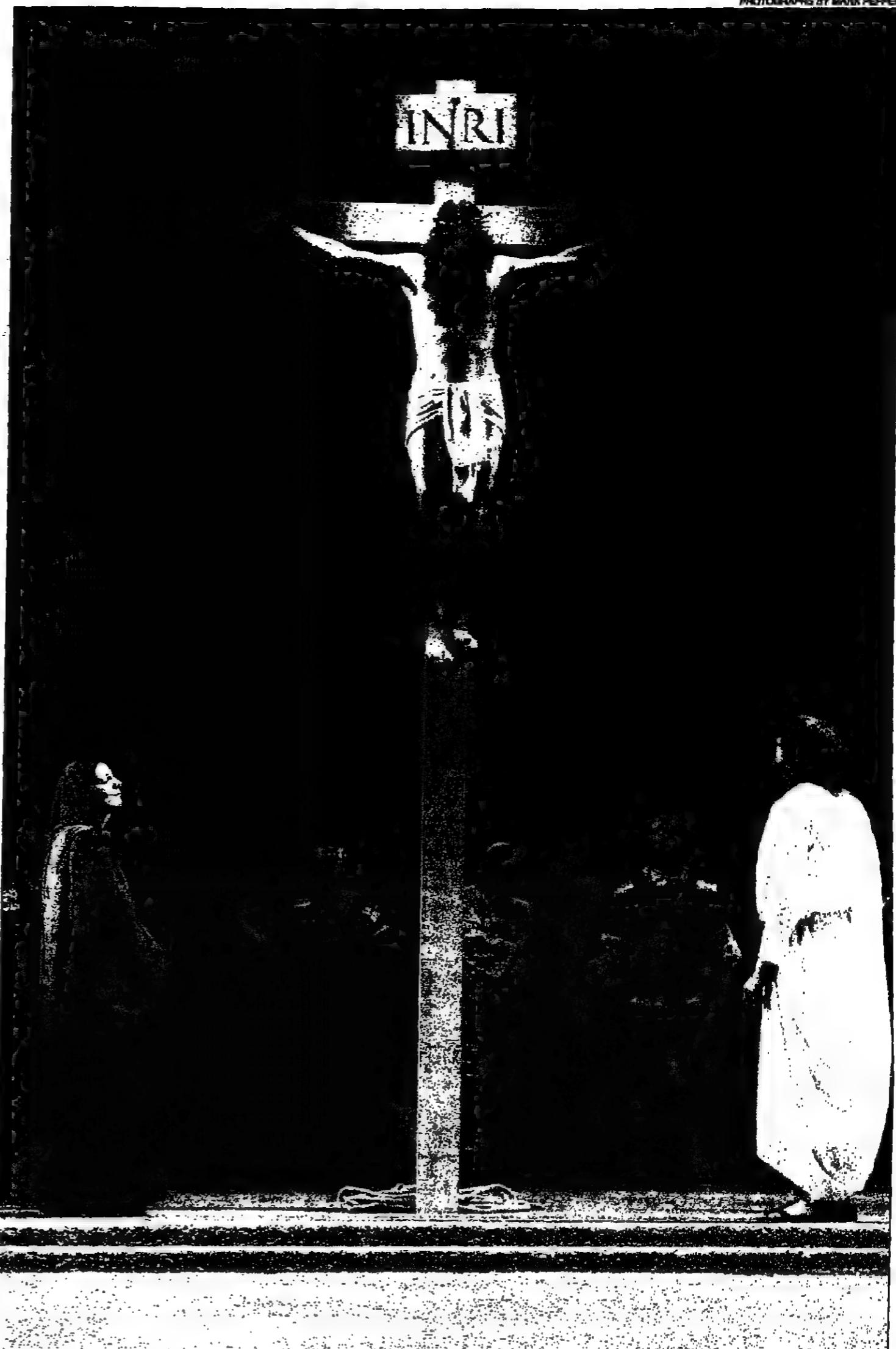
In 1988, a group of Oberammergau feminists went to the Constitutional Court in Munich over the ban on married women, invoking equal rights legislation dating from 1927. The names of the major players were announced at a village ceremony. When the names of the two actresses to represent Mary were chalked up on a blackboard (all major parts in the play are doubled to reduce stress and jealousy), the reformers were surprised and delighted to see the name of Elisabeth Petre.

Frau Petre is 37 years old and married, with two sons aged eight and five. The selection committee had decided to jump before it was pushed by the court (which has since ruled in favour of the feminists). It was a major victory for Herr Stückl, who had lobbied hard for Frau Petre, and had begged her to be a candidate.

She had been reluctant at first to repeat the bruising experiences she had gone through in the storm over a controversial experimental production in 1977, in which she had played Mary. She had been offered the part again in 1980, but had refused it because she was out of sympathy with the conservative fiction then in the ascendant.

Apart from her role in past classics, she was equivalently placed because to an extent she was married, but to an extent she was not. She is Catholic, but her Romanian husband, Alexandru, is of the Russian Orthodox faith. The Catholic authorities would not bless the union, so the two had married in a civil ceremony. Only weeks before the opening night, the parish priest agreed to minimize possible scandal over a Virgin who was married, unmarried and a mother, and allowed a church wedding, co-celebrated with an Orthodox priest behind locked doors in the village's onion-steeped rococo church.

There was little outward sign of the bitterness of the rift when I



The Agony: a village Christ in torment, watched by Elisabeth Petre (Mary), whose recent church marriage averted a scandal

Westwood power cuts a big garden down to size fast (whatever the weather)

SO VERSATILE IT OUTSELLS ALL OTHERS

- Power to handle long, lush grass in a single cut
- Power to completely clear rough and uneven ground areas
- Power to collect clippings with unprecedented efficiency
- Power to cut and stripe in one - giving a truly superb finish
- Power to improve big lawns, slitting, spiking, raking and spraying
- Power to tow, haul, shred, spread and roll - year in year out
- Powerful performance in craftsmanship and quality control, plus exceptional after sales service.



For more information and/or demonstration
PHONE FREE ON
0800 378 315

quoting T16 when connected.

SAVE ALMOST £300*
limited period offer
FREE POWERED COLLECTOR

Super-efficient grass collection now FREE,
"when you buy any Westwood T Series
tractor at normal retail price."

FREE 34 PAGE BUYERS GUIDE PLUS FREE VHS VIDEO (OPTIONAL)

NAME _____	
ADDRESS _____	
POST CODE _____	
LASTING QUALITY TO DO A GOOD DEAL MORE	

Westwood
TANSOMES CONSUMER DIVISION



Theatre of Passion: this summer it will be thronged with visitors

Continued overleaf

THE NED SHERRIN COLUMN



Plus c'est la même chose for Auntie

We had better start with the BBC. The corporation has opened its new Written Archive Centre at Caversham Park near Reading. In the Domesday Book, Caversham's 2,400 acres were valued at £20, property of the first Earl of Buckingham, a cousin of the Conqueror. Warwick made kings there, Elizabeth slept there, Charles I was imprisoned. The BBC paid an inflationary £47,000 for it in 1941. It was its monitoring station during the war, and now it eavesdrops on 130 countries daily.

Only a few treasures were on display in the new archive house but they were riveting, especially early applications for auditions. Vanessa Redgrave, aged 15½, wrote offering herself as an actor on Uncle Mac's recommendation along with "my brother Corin who is 12½... my father has given us some coaching". At school she had played "Mole in Toad of Toad Hall" and "Sir Joan". The snag was that "my brother (he can do American)" would be going to "public school in the autumn and therefore only available in holidays". Kathleen Ferrier applied in 1941. Back in 1934 Peter N.L. Pears asked if he could be heard for "the Wireless Singers". Guy Burgess pleaded that "Major Blum" be allowed to talk about "the preservation of art treasures in countries occupied by British and American forces... he can be got through me". I pored over the J.B. Priestley exhibits. Early in his broadcasting career, he was reported to be "beastly to work with, unaccommodating, unpunctual, egotistical, puts everyone's back up, not worth it". He has his heirs.

NOW for the social whirl. There was a "Taste of the Nineties Luncheon" at Claridges to celebrate Scottish salmon. Somehow, "the King of freshwater fish" failed to rise in two pedestrian recipes — souffled with a spinach coulis or baked, smothered with a warm vinaigrette. "It wasn't the wine," murmured Mr Snodgrass in a broken voice (*in Pickwick Papers*). "It was the salmon." I am with Mr Snodgrass.

Then there was Sunday's wake for Peter Langen who would have been 49. Langen's was studded with survivors — George Best, Henry Cooper, both Ronnies, Bob Hoskins, Ben Kingsley and all. Keith Waterhouse suggested two minutes' hubbub, pulling girls screaming under tables, instead of the more usual two minutes' silence. He was not needed. Langen already has two biographers. Brian Sewell's book was on display. Christopher Wilson,



party was in the stalls bar, while 100 yards away in Leicester Square Haagen-Dazs opened an all-ice-cream restaurant that very afternoon. At the Phoenix I saw the penultimate preview of Peter Hall's company in *The Wild Duck*. Sir Peter has said that their long provincial tour proved the old adage that Ibsen isn't box office. I supposed the West End previews would tell a different story. "No," he replied gloomily, "now we're proving it in the West End." It is a stirring, if not super-starry, cast, and will surely pick up.

Peter's guess was Maria St Just. Lady St Just is Tennessee Williams's literary executor and Concorded off to America the next day to promote her fascinating edition of Tennessee's letters to her. Gore Vidal had asked her what happened to her letters to Tennessee. She said he seemed not to have kept them. "That's Tennessee!" said Gore. "So sentimental."

SO MUCH reader collaboration this week! We must close the Shakespearean "knock-knocks" — too many Toby or not Tobys, too many triple Tamoras, too many Leon Macduffs but spare a chuckle for Jane Farnell's "Ida," "Ida who?" "Ida rather be a dog and obey the moon than such a Roman." Frank Courtney's "Tis one," "Tis one what?" "Tis one thing to be tempted. Escalus, another thing to fall." And Robert Simmond's "Ois." "Oh, 'tis foul in here."

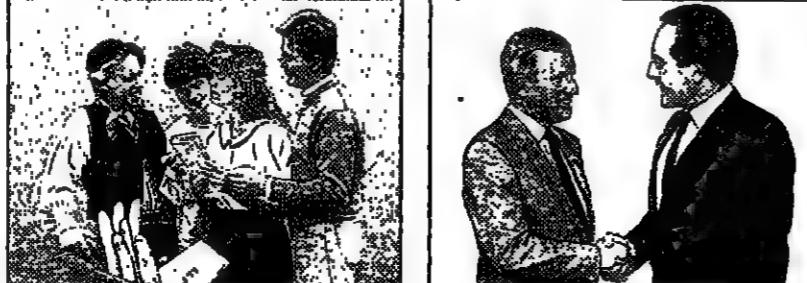
Some weeks ago I asked for candidates for "bottom-rung-of-the-ladder" pathos. Doug McVittie writes from France to recall a bedraggled visiting Essex under-12 football team from last year. They were playing in the annual twin-town contest. Their captain led his ramshackle urchins to the trophy table before the match and pointed to the smallest prize — the booby — saying, proudly: "That's the one we're going to win."

I thought I'd seen the back of lightbulb jokes but Andrew Nickolds, who has been working with two American writers from *Cheers*, Brian and Merti, collected this one. "How many TV executives does it take to change a lightbulb?"

"Does it have to be a lightbulb?"

Speak French, Spanish, German or Italian in only 3½ weeks

WE GUARANTEE IT!



Improve school results, get a warmer response when you travel, and gain respect in business.

This totally new method makes language learning genuinely enjoyable.

Most people's first experience of learning another language was, unfortunately, not very successful. Yet influential educationalists and psychologists now agree — it wasn't you that was at fault, it was the teaching method.

Nobel prize winning research has recently revealed much more about the brain — how it really works, how it remembers.

The result is Accelerated Learning. It's easy, fast and, above all, genuinely enjoyable. Although it has received widespread academic and commercial approval, it's very different to old style repetitive methods.

START BY RELAXING

Tension inhibits learning. So parts of Accelerated Learning use soothing rhythmic background music, which creates a receptive state of mind, and also provides a strong memorable link to the words you are learning. Think how many popular songs you've learned the same way.

USING BOTH SIDES OF YOUR BRAIN

We know that the left brain uses logic, whilst the right is more powerful, more imaginative, more visual.

Accelerated Learning stimulates both sides of your brain at once. You hear the language you will need presented as a realistic radio play, in short, easy-to-absorb sentences. Meanwhile, you look at unique 'memory maps' — memorable illustrations that enable you to create a vivid and permanent mental picture of the vocabulary. Then you re-inforce everything, by becoming actively involved in enjoyable games and activities.

10 DAY
FREE TRIAL
GUARANTEE

The result is that your whole brain works harmoniously and you simply absorb your new language in a relaxed way. You will understand and be able to use literally hundreds of words from the very first day. It couldn't be easier.

THE RESULT
PERSONAL STEREO
Worth £11.95, it's yours absolutely free if you order within the next 7 days.

IT CERTAINLY WORKS

"Incorporates all the latest and important discoveries in learning in a unique way" Dr Noel Entwistle, Professor of Education, Edinburgh University.
"It's an admirable package: a far cry from conventional textbooks, and one of the most memorable, self learning opportunities we have seen." British Assoc for Commercial and Industrial Education.
"Exceptional — I found myself smiling and happy to be learning." L.P. Middx.

Note These courses are prepared to Council of Europe standards and are now being used in teacher training departments in UK, USA and Australia.

ACCELERATED LEARNING

It works

ORDER BY PHONE
MON-FRI 9-5pm

(0296) 631177

Accelerated Learning Systems Limited

50 Aylesbury Road,
Aston Clinton, Aylesbury,
Bucks HP22 4RH.
Registered in England
No. 1265110.

MOR
MAIL ORDER RETAILERS

Not applicable overseas.

Please allow 14-21 days for delivery.

Accelerated Learning Systems Ltd, FREEPOST Aylesbury,
Bucks HP22 4RH.

Let me try a course for 10 days, on your no risk trial terms.

Send me FRENCH SPANISH GERMAN ITALIAN

My preferred payment which I enclose is:

A full payment of £99 (plus £2.50 p&p) — saving £10.95.

An initial deposit of £19.95 (plus £2.50 p&p), followed by 3 consecutive monthly payments of £30.00 (Total £121.45).

I enclose a cheque for £ for debit my Visa/Access card.

Card No. Expiry Date
Name Address Post code
..... International Spanish Signature T1 1990

PETER MCKAY

If I were...

If I were John Selwyn Gummer, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, I would feel this morning like a mugging victim who is hauled to his feet by police and accused of contributing to the wave of violent crime. Farmers, I would have to accept, now have me in mind when they construct scarecrows even though I am accused of being in their pockets. The manure mafia has attacked me over my opposition to grain cartels, poison food compensations, new stubble-burning laws, and my lack of appreciation for what the NFU president Sir Simon Gourlay calls "the looming farm crisis". It was almost a relief to be called "the patron saint of fishmongers" by the *Daily Mirror*, if only they had not spoilt it by adding that I was "the Corporal Jones of a Dad's Army Cabinet."

In politics it is always better to be Minister For Something People Do Not Have An Opinion About, like foreign affairs. Being Minister for Agriculture is to invite a daily barrage of conflicting advice and insults.



... John Selwyn Gummer

Even my triumphs sound silly. "Gummer Claims Victory on Fish Quotas" is the most positive headline I have attracted in the past year. If I may quote George Crabbe from *The Parish Register*: "Our farmers round, well pleased with constant gain/Like other farmers flourish and complain."

There are few things more basic than eating (yes, but they come under Health or Environment). Now I stand in the dock charged with foisting mad cow meat on the public. As always in this job, there is no lack of advice which really boils down to one simple request. Sack myself, and my ministry. Set up a new Ministry of Food designed to make our vultures producers toe the health line. Goodbye to fuddy-duddy old rebates, grants, kickbacks, bribes, set-asides and all of the other laborious procedures which have characterized the venal relationship between the Government and British farmers since the last war. Say hello to a brave, abrasive new era in which the Government will cast Old MacDonald adrift on the capitalist sea, guided only by a massive list of dos and don'ts. As if I — or the Government, totally supported by the Opposition — could achieve such a thing overnight.

Thankfully, I am not given to panic. As a muscular Christian who has attacked the handholding fraternity in the Church of England, I have had to endure more than my share of abuse. I have been accused by Peter Bottomley — now in Northern Ireland, best place for him — of being attracted to language that grabs headlines, which is rather like being called careless with money by Ken Dodd.

Rows about food — as with public hoo-has on every other topic — exhaust themselves finally. Even the most indignant voter realizes in time that we all share responsibility for the things we eat. For years, the overriding objective of agriculture in this country was to make us as self-sufficient as possible in food. To do that, we had to stuff animals, birds and soil with additives. This was accepted as the price we paid for cheap, home-grown snap. If it is a price we are no longer prepared to pay, so be it. But please don't blame John Selwyn Gummer for inventing this suddenly unpopular world, or of being in cahoots with the farmers — especially when they are throwing dead cows at him.

Oberammergau: spiritual drama

Continued from previous page

The vow of 1633 has shaped the village's destiny ever since. It stopped the plague overnight, and since then it has become Oberammergau's main occupation. Over the centuries, it has changed from a purely local act of devotion to an international media event. There can be few communities anywhere so wholly shaped by a single activity. Directly or indirectly, the play is the bread and butter of most families. It is the theme of local politics, for elections to the town council regularly turn on disputes about the play. (The council is the ultimate authority in all decisions about its form and personnel). Between the drama on stage and the dramas behind the scenes, it is the villagers' obsession, their taste of glory, their lifelong soap opera — and for some, the albatross round Oberammergau's neck. As one disgruntled villager put it to me: "Nine years out of 10, our hotels are half-empty, and the play is to blame. Our image is as pious as that of Lourdes — and who's want to go to Lourdes for a holiday?"

This was Herr Stückl, the director. He reminded me of one of those curators, or junior schoolteachers, who has been put in charge of drama by his wiser and lazier elders, and is finding rather to his surprise that he is enjoying every moment of it.

There can be an emotional intensity about amateur theatre which the professional stage seldom equals. With a cast of more than 1,000 — not counting sheep, doves and the donkey which carries Christ into Jerusalem — this is amateur dramatics on an epic scale.

In fact, Herr Stückl would scarcely be where he is without his share of drive and personal ambition. Though born in the village, he spent a year working in a theatre in Munich as part of his apprenticeship for his present job, and hopes to return to the professional stage if he makes his name here. He is concerned to play down the rift in the community, and insists that the main hostility to Frau Petre's appointment had come not from the village, but from religious opponents in other parts of Germany and elsewhere, even from London.

"There are these feelings, but we do not share them," he told me. "It is the idea of the Church that Mary was a virgin and got a baby from God in a way that we do not understand, but it is a certainty that the baby came out in the natural way. Even in the teaching of the Church, she was a virgin and also a mother. With a natural woman you can only present one of those two aspects."

Dr Dietl's main worry about the play was a different

and more unexpected one. He was concerned that it might become almost a rival to the Church. "I am eager that the Church does not get beside the play; that people do not take their religious feelings out in the play rather than the Church, because after 90 performances they will not be standing up there with glowing hearts any more. One will need to rebuild spirituality carefully afterwards."

He painted a picture of a community where relationships took on special intensity because of the immense project.

"Because of the play, this is a village where talents and tensions are highly developed. Many people act out their roles in life as vigorously as on the stage. It is a place where there are many cocks on the dunghill."

I found the Virgin Mary's house all at sixes and sevens. Between rehearsals, Frau Petre had been organizing a collection of clothes for Romania, and she had hastily tidied away the boxes to receive me, in a parlour lined with books, with dried flowers hanging from the rafters and a heap of soft toys in the corner.

She has a high-cheekboned, distinguished face, and very expressive hands and wrists. I asked her whether she saw the controversy as a religious or practical one. She giggled and ducked her head, so that her beautiful dark hair fell across her face. "It was because practically nobody was a virgin any more", she said.

Then, more seriously, she added that she was sure the main reason for opposition had been religious. It was not true that hostility to her appointment had come only from fanatics outside the village. "There was open hostility here in the village, and it was awful. I can still feel who are my friends and who are my enemies."

With more modesty than probability, she suggested that Herr Stückl had picked her because she was an older woman who might pass as the mother of a 30-year-old. "I really didn't run after the job. My husband asked me to do it, and so did Herr Stückl, but I was very doubtful. However, I think the rule did have to be changed; somebody had to go through this. I didn't want special rights for myself, but I did want the women who had been left out to get a chance."

She dropped her eyes humbly, the line of her neck saying eloquently: "Behold, the handmaid of the Lord". She was such an accomplished and instinctive actress that I asked whether, like Herr Stückl, she had considered going on the professional stage.

She seemed puzzled for a moment, as if she could not see the connection. Then she replied with a distinction that exists in the German language, but not in English. The word for a professional actor, she said, was *Schauspieler*. It denoted a skill, an ability to assume a role and put it down like a mask. But someone who played at Oberammergau was a *Darsteller*, a "self-actor".

"This play is not a show, and I'm not a star," she said. "Here you have to be more honest in the way you act. You bring up what is in you. Perhaps there is a greater identification with the person one plays . . ."

Suddenly I felt I understood why it had seemed so important to some villagers to have a virgin playing the Virgin. As for the task Frau Petre was preparing herself to take on, it suddenly seemed a truly awesome one. And I realized with delight that the two German words expressed exactly what I had often felt about the truth that there can be in amateur acting, which the professional stage with all its tricks can hardly equal.

She was growing weary, and her two saucer-eyed little boys were getting fidgety. It must be tiring to live in a community so concentrated on a single continuing project, I said. "It doesn't make things easy. There is more to quarrel about. But it is a constructive stress. It creates sensitivity in people. If you go to Oberammergau, just down the road, you can feel the difference at once. It's . . . just a place."

WEST GERMANY
50 miles
Munich
Oberammergau
AUSTRIA
Innsbruck
ITALY

50 miles

Munich

Oberammergau

AUSTRIA

Innsbruck

ITALY

50 miles

Munich

Oberammergau

AUSTRIA

Innsbruck

ITALY

50 miles

Munich

Oberammergau

AUSTRIA

Innsbruck

ITALY

50 miles

Munich

Oberammergau

'When I was 10 I asked to hear Mozart's Requiem. I was terribly precocious'

by Ray Connolly

Sir Peter Hall's parents could not have given him more than they did. Working-class people, they believed the way ahead was through education. They encouraged their only son to excel. The first book Sir Peter remembers in the home was a collected works of Dickens, in tiny print, obtained by his father, on his behalf, by saving coupons in the *News Chronicle*. He still has the book.

But in encouraging him they created a huge gap — "which was not properly bridged until the last years of my father's life."

"It was terribly sad because they were wonderful people. I used to ask my mother why they didn't have any more children and she'd say, 'We can't do for two what we can for one'."

But the more they did for him the greater the gap became. "I am very much of the Richard Hoggart generation. The working-class boy — elementary school, grammar school and university — who finds himself absolutely separated from his parents and his family. *The Uses of Literacy* struck me like a thunderbolt."

"It wasn't so much a class gap as an education gap between us. They were terribly proud of how far they had come and of where they thought I might go, although of course they were terribly worried at first, dead worried."

The result was that he felt an outsider, not only in his family because of his education, but also an outsider in where he was trying to arrive, at school and at university.

The most celebrated English stage director, having run the Royal Shakespeare Company and then the National Theatre, he now has his own company. His production of Ibsen's *The Wild Duck* has just opened at the Phoenix Theatre.

He was born in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, in 1930. His mother liked to say she was "in business" but she was really an assistant in a draper's shop. His father was a goods clerk on the railway, who had been to grammar school on a scholarship and "perfected himself. He was the first person in my family to get any kind of education".

The ambition was quickly passed on to his son. "He was a very wise, very calm man, but totally unambitious. He didn't want to get on. I think all my

mother's thwarted ambitions about my father and herself were poured into me."

"My father's father had been a rat catcher on the Sandringham estate. This used to fascinate me, but my mother would always say: 'He wasn't a rat catcher, he was a vermin exterminator.' Isn't it wonderful? It makes me cry to think of it."

"They only died a year and a half ago, within a few days of each other, but they never once went in an aeroplane, nor even abroad. They could have done. My father got free travel with the railways after the war. They could have got on a train and gone to Paris but they never did. They just didn't want to."

Right from the start they gave their son the best they knew, with a private kindergarten education from five until eight. "My father only earned about £3 a week but somehow they found the money for this, and for piano lessons, which were sixpence a week. My musical education probably came before anything else, in fact."

"My father was with the Bury St Edmunds Amateur Operatic Society, and because I had quite an easy aptitude for learning to play I used to accompany him from quite early on."

He was, he suspects, a hideously precocious child, due in part to the fact that for a long time he was the only one in a large extended family of aunts, uncles and grandparents. Never expected to do any work around the house ("I grew up to believe that was women's work"), he was always encouraged to read or listen to music. In his bedroom he would have an electric fire, his radio and his books. He always read "omnivorously".

When Sir Peter was between the ages of five and nine his father was station master at Berham, a remote Suffolk spot on a single line with just five trains a day. They had no gas, electricity or running water, and only an outside lavatory. He loved it. "I learnt about the woods and birds and flowers from an old gamekeeper called Charlie Kent on the Duke of Grafton's estate."

Years later this early fascination with rural life would lead him to make the film *Akenfield*.

Just before the outbreak of war the family moved to Cambridge, which he considers one of the greatest pieces of good fortune in his life. "It was very significant



Sir Peter Hall and (below) as a child: "My grandfather was a rat catcher on the Sandringham estate. But my mother would always call him 'a vermin exterminator'."

because I had the war years in Cambridge, and so many things were evacuated from London and happened there. I remember I saw *The Marriage of Figaro* in the week of my tenth birthday. I know it was that week because on my birthday I heard Mozart's *Requiem* in King's College Chapel."

Whose idea was that? "I asked if I could go. That's why I think I was terribly precocious."

He was now attending an elementary school but won a scholarship to Perse School, Cambridge. Although he was already growing away from his parents he felt at school, too. The minor scholarship boys had their fees paid by the local authority, and while all the other boys would have shiny new books bought by their fathers, the minor scholarship boys would have old dog-eared hand-me-downs with "minor scholar book" stamped all over them. He remembers this with absolute fury.

He was doing well, but there were always days of anxiety that he would not get over the next hurdle — the scholarship to the grammar school, the school certificate, the higher certificate and a scholarship to Cambridge. Of course he did. He passed everything, always played Hamlet and even became head boy. And somewhere along the line his Suffolk accent gradually, unintentionally, disappeared.

His theatrical education had begun at four, when he had been taken to see *Robinson Crusoe* at the Playhouse, Bury St Edmunds. He can still remember the

expectation and the lights.

There was a great deal of theatre in Cambridge in the war years ("I saw Gielgud's Hamlet in 1942, standing at the back in the Arts Theatre"). Sometimes his parents would go with him, but they really only liked it because he did.

When he reached his teens there would be school parties to Stratford, and, able to make use of his father's free travel on the railways (the facility extended to employees' families), he went up to London regularly to stay with an aunt in Lewisham, going to the theatre, matinees and evenings, for four or five days in a row. He would do odd jobs — fruit picking and paper rounds — to earn the ticket money. He has, he thinks, seen everything worth seeing on the London stage since 1943.

Before university there was national service. At 18 he finished playing Hamlet in the school production one Friday night, and arrived at RAF West Kirby on the Monday morning, aiming at the education corps which he thought was the best skive and which might not be a total waste of time.

The air force had nothing to be said for it at all. It was, he says, full of the most horrible, appalling, terrible people, and where fascism and bullying were rife. But the education training centre did have the advantage of being just four miles from Stratford-upon-Avon. "Take the 6.30 bus from the depot down to the theatre, and you could walk in in those days. I can still recite the cast list of every production from the summer of 1948."

After a year as an acting sergeant teaching economics and business management at a demobilisation centre in Germany (although he had only done economics as a subsidiary subject at school),

where he played piano duets and directed his first play (strangely, he cannot remember its title), he returned to Cambridge, to St Catharine's College and his degree in English. "It was my best subject, but I also wanted to get as much Shakespeare as I could."

The day after it opened he was telephoned by Windsor Rep who asked him to do a play there. Two weeks after leaving Cambridge he was directing professionally. The good luck continued. Given an assistant's job at the Arts, between directing at various repertory theatres around the south of England, he was suddenly left in charge. One of his first productions was a play by a writer he had never heard of. It was called *Waiting For Godot*.

"It was sent round to me by Donald Albery who said he couldn't get anyone who wanted to put it on or who wanted to be in it. I read it straight through and decided immediately, I can't pretend I knew what it was about, but I didn't worry about that. I just found it terribly surprising, very funny and very moving. A new form of play."

Godot received a mixed reception ("there was muttering and murmuring all the way through the first night"), but it alerted others to his presence. Tennessee Williams called and told him he would like him to do his plays in London (Sir Peter has just finished filming his Broadway production of Williams's *Orpheus Descending*), and a call came from Stratford. Since the age of 15, his ambition had been to run Stratford.

He did not realize it at the time, but he was incredibly lucky. As though it were not enough to be given a theatre at the age of 24, he had also been sent the right play. And, of course, had he been a different animal, he might have turned that play down.

Geraldine Ranson on writing as an art

In a fair hand

If anyone had told our grandmothers that the day would come when able-bodied, educated women would pay good money for other people to write their invitations, they would have scarcely believed it. Yet today hostesses will pay 60p a word and more to a calligrapher who writes their place cards and invitations, and woe betide anyone foolish enough to make use of the convenience of computer labels on the envelopes.

"I need my calligrapher more than I need my secretary," says Deborah Bennett, a marketing and communications expert. She frequently gives image-building parties for her clients where the invitation is the first signal. When it is beautifully handwritten, people understand immediately that the occasion is very special and they respond."

Alastair Elliott Lockhart of The Walton Street Stationery Company, who will write for his customers under protest, charges £50 per hour. "I once even wrote a thank-you letter for a girl after a weekend house party. A wedding invitation takes 15 minutes and of course it is repetitive and boring. I won't do more than 25 the same."

When customers come into the shop to buy an expensive pen like a Montblanc (their Meisterstück, issued this month, costs from £340) to improve their handwriting, Elliott Lockhart usually suggests that they start with a cheaper Pelikan pen which encloses a booklet showing the strokes, and go away and practise.

Most professional calligraphers and handwriting enthusiasts belong to the Society for Imitic Handwriting, which on Tuesday meets for its annual meeting and to hear an address from its new

president, Humphrey Lyttelton, who has chosen as his topic "Living with Pen and Processor". As word processors came into common use, he noted that italic writing sets became standard stock in most branches of W.H. Smith.

Humphrey Lyttelton remem-

bers writing lines in copperplate as a punishment at his prep. school in Sunningdale. He inherited his love of calligraphy from his father, George, a house master at Eton. After his parents' death, their son inherited his father's desk with all his pens and his bulletins from the Society for Imitic Handwriting.

Sir Patrick Nairne, Chancellor of Essex University and a former Master of St Catherine's College, Oxford, who lists calligraphy among his hobbies, instilled a love of handwriting into his six children. Today his daughter, Fiona Greenwood, is a professional calligrapher. She also teaches. "The trouble is that most teachers are not taught how to teach handwriting. Most of them are not even confident about their own."

Most of her pupils are adult seeking to learn to write a legible, pleasing script. An hour's coaching makes a big difference, Mrs Greenwood believes, and three sessions can help an adult to create a new and personal style.

David Kindersley, the stope cutter and inventor of eight typefaces, including that used for many street names in Britain, never uses a typewriter in his workshops. He also claims that bills written in his wife's beautiful hand get paid very much more quickly. Humphrey Lyttelton adds: "I turn my quarterly returns into a wonderful exercise in calligraphy. I don't know if it impresses the VAT man but it gives me enormous pleasure."

Imaginative art exhibitions with wacky titles are another simple way for a humorist to raise a laugh. But there seems to be no point any more in going to all that trouble, because real life continues to win hands down. In *The Times*'s list of recommended art exhibitions

leading the Daily Telegraph's books page last week, I could not but grieve for the way the world dwindles daily for the humorist. An epidemic of jocularity is sweeping the country. We are all Mad Cows now. The trouble is not that there is nothing to laugh at, but that there is everything to laugh at. Jokes are fast running out, for a joke must transform real life in some perverse way, and real life has begun to perform the same operation perfectly professionally upon itself.

The book review that caught my eye was of *The Oxford Book of Canadian Military Anecdotes*. Now, the ever-increasing dullness and oddity of Oxford books is an old favourite among humorists, who are always trying to think up new and hilariously tedious *Oxford Book of...* titles. The real-life *Oxford Book of Death* set us back a bit, but *The Oxford Book of Canadian Military Anecdotes* has dealt us a blow from which it will be hard to recover. Already there are reports from the North that up to 10 humorous jobs have been lost, and a joke factory is to close. But the joke in the Telegraph was not ending with the title. I was wondering why the Telegraph's literary editor, usually a very sensible fellow (as those of us who have books out this year will all agree), should have granted such a lot of space to such an obviously boring book. I then noticed the by-line. It was "Conrad Black", who is, well, blow me down. The Canadian proprietor of *The Daily Telegraph*. So, not only was this a first-class joke about OUP books, it was also a first-class joke about newspaper proprietors, and not a joke-monger in sight.

Funny art exhibitions with wacky titles are another simple way for a humorist to raise a laugh. But there seems to be no point any more in going to all that trouble, because real life continues to win hands down. In *The Times*'s list of recommended art exhibitions

CRAIG BROWN

Now here's a funny thing

this week, there was one at the Design Museum titled "Sardine Tin Labels from Norway", on until June 17.

And so it goes on: on Wednesday, it was announced that the new Stephen Sondheim musical would be called *Assassins*. Leading characters would include Lee Harvey Oswald and Sirhan Sirhan, and there would be a final chorus in which the assassins turn to the audience singing: "We've done our bit — now it's your turn." Just as I was adding this to the claim by the editor of *The Times Literary Supplement* in last week's *Spectator* that there had once been a musical about the Kray brothers, I read of yet another musical, called *The Death of Klinghoffer*, about the wheelchair-bound tourist who was murdered by terrorists on the Achille Lauro in 1985.

From time to time in these pages, I like to parody the memoirs of politicians, highlighting their conceit, their pomposity, their simple delight in themselves. Over

trying too hard. He should have sent in the first paragraph of *The Honorary Consultant*:

"Doctor Eduardo Martí stood in the small port of Paraná, among the rails and yellow cranes watching where a horizontal plume of smoke stretched over the Chaco... It was an evening which, by some mysterious combination of failing light and the smell of an unrecognized plant, brings back to some men the sense of childhood and of future hope and to others the sense of something which has been lost and nearly forgotten."

Similarly, a Ruth Rendell first paragraph competition would undoubtedly be won by Ruth Rendell: "It was the first dead body he had ever seen... Something unpleasant had happened to her face; it was swollen and a greyish-blue colour, and her eyes protruded under strained, shiny eyelids" (*Master of the Moor*).

And no one can quite capture the final pedantry of the final, nit-picking lines of an Anthony Powell review quite as well as Anthony Powell: "The note on p.90 should read Lady Diana Bridgemore, not Bradford; the Princesse de Caraman-Chimay on p.430, the same as she is on p.559, was née Hennessy, not Hamilton; the dog that acted in *La Dolce Vita* belonged to Taffy Rodd."

There are already murmurings in the joke-mills of a national strike by humorists. We will down examination-marks until the world pulls its socks up and acts seriously once more. But the situation is looking bleak. News just in confirms that Radio 1 disc-jockey Mike Read, prevented by the Betjeman estate from putting on a musical called *England's Teddy Bear* about Sir John Betjeman, will be presenting a new musical about Rupert Brooke in the West End this autumn. Already, massed lines of humorists are gathering at Beachy Head, ready to leap.



Good Will to the elderly

Over 8,000 elderly people who would otherwise be living alone now enjoy the benefit of privacy and companionship in an Abbeyfield House. These small caring households for 7-10 elderly people have a "family" atmosphere and encourage independence within a familiar neighbourhood.

Loneliness and isolation in old age is now becoming a national concern. Abbeyfield has already helped provide a solution by setting up over 1,000 Houses but more are desperately needed.

Now Abbeyfield is building more "Extra Care" houses for the frail elderly which offer 24-hour care while maintaining the unique Abbeyfield philosophy:

Help bring a new lease of life to lonely, elderly people by naming The Abbeyfield Society as a beneficiary in your Will.

<input type="checkbox"/> I enclose a donation of £
<input type="checkbox"/> Please send me details of making a covenant legacy in your favour
Name _____
Address _____
Postcode _____

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

Shamed by his French eclectic interior, Peter Stothard goes to view the dazzling faucetry of a 'classic' mansion in the Washington suburbs

Great staircase, shame about the bathrooms



"Those bathrooms are terrible," said the woman with the red suit and matching mobile phone. She was talking about our bathrooms. She had invited herself in from the street, placed her calling card by the door and taken a little tour.

"Nice house," she smiled. "French eclectic — which means that bits of it are French," she explained with a second, flashier smile. "But the bathrooms ... they're the wrong bits."

Her card claimed that she was a "million dollar" realtor. Her lips proclaimed that she was "pricing up a local property for a client". We probably should have shown her the door. She could have been a female Raffles, sizing up our christening silver for a heist. But then we would never have known what she felt about our fat chromium "faucets" (or taps, as we lamely insisted on calling them); nor her view of our hand-basins, which we discovered were called "lavatories". And we would not have known the name of our real lavatories: "Flushmasters! Wonderful pull, as long as they work," she summed up with a sigh, before treading gingerly over the dulled black-and-white tiles towards the bedroom door, out down the wrought-iron staircase ("a good bit of France") to the safety of her baby BMW.

Without her we might also not have learnt a useful fact about the place in which we had come to live: that there are two types of houses in Washington — those that people like to live in, and those that realtors like to sell. Sometimes the two categories overlap — but only rarely, when the city sits on the edge of a recession and even America's most ultra-mobile people prefer to batton down their hatches and stay put.

Our house has had only two previous owners in 60 years. It is a very comfortable family house. 1926 was a good year for jazz, General Strikes and, in our view, for French Eclectic architecture in the Chevy Chase district. But it was a bad year for bathrooms.

Indeed, the only good year for bathrooms, it transpires, is this year. Lavatories and faucets keep builders in business. And in 1990 — when the US capital feels an economic draught from falling defence budgets, rising interest rates and a nasty sense that it is no longer the centre of the free world

— the pressure on the chrome-and-gold pipework is rising.

The action is not so much now in the old areas of town, but some five miles further out of the city, towards Baltimore. The heart of the new selling-fields is called Potomac — a smart local name for a place which is as ill-defined and expandable as a marketing man could desire, and which developers are convinced can be made as chic as old Georgetown.

Potomac's "tract mansions", as they are called, sit on minimised two-acre plots which only a year or two ago were part of the Maryland countryside. They are genetically described as "classics", and have names like The Manor and The Hampstead. They feel very close packed together. That may be because of their vast size; also, perhaps, because of the American "builder's acre", a portion which, unlike the baker's dozen, is less than it ought to be. There are no nearby shops or schools, and the roads are narrow.

But buyers are said to like the mixture of exclusivity and familiarity which these "neighbourhoods" bring. To those who are persuaded to pay up to \$5 million for them, the tract mansions are the latest statement of "arrival". To the car-drivers on the clogged arterial highway, they are massive idols to look upon and dream. And to those who have to spend any time in them, they are, at least, marvellous places to wash.

One of the choicest currently on sale is at 10704 Riverwood Drive. Here, according to a brochure from two of Washington's best-known builders, is "a world of romance in which a paradox of spacious intimacy prevails". The main bedroom suite alone has 14 separate rooms.

"The master bath, in a word, is sumptuous," the would-be buyer is told. And, in case a single word is not enough, there are a few more. "The bath is warmed to the foot with radiant heat floors and bejewelled with dazzling polished faience.

"Watch the firelight dancing in the reflection of champagne chilled from the wet bar tucked discreetly against the wall," the builders urge. "Gaze at falling stars from the second-storey balcony, or contemplate a midnight swim in the tranquil pool below."

Champagne is to be served in the double "Brun Fleur" Jacuzzi. This large, cream marble bath is the only part of the suite designated for joint his-and-her use. The rest is precisely marked out for sexual privacy. He has a great marble shower that two Franciscan priests could comfortably inhabit — if they could bear the sense of living in a giant after-shave carton. She has a "vanity" big enough to make up the entire cast of *A Chorus Line*. Both have clothes cupboards that would satisfy Mrs Marcos — even he is anticipated to be the possessor of a hundred pairs of shoes.

There is something wonderfully sincere about the way in which our guiding realtor (not the "millionaire club" lady, but Mr Oliver Cowan, the nation's "Number One") reveals the bathrooms of Riverwood. He has already shown us the 60ft entertainment hall which we all suspect will be more wanted than used. We have seen the Caledonia Granite kitchen, with its Jennair state-of-the-art oven beside Barely Gray braided Rust caldron — and we all know that its heart that it will one day be occupied by a tin-opening, pizza-delivery-dialling couple with a Spanish-speaking staff who would much prefer an Aga.

We have seen the "butler's office", with the desk where the cook is supposed to sit to write up the daily menus and pay the grocery bills for the non-existent local shop. Let us hope she has

watched some old episodes of *Upstairs Downstairs*. We have toured the cherry-panelled "library" and seen its shelf space for barely 40 books.

But, by the Jacuzzi upstairs,

between the church-style window and the warmed marble floors, there is a sex-and-champagne fantasy in which Mr Cowan is truly confident: "You only come this way once, so why not do it right?" he insists, as his mobile phone beeps for the thirtieth time that hour. His urging is not wholly without urgency. Mr Cowan is something of a Washington classic himself — an elegant black salesman who has graduated from vacuum cleaners to multi-million-dollar houses by working 16 hours a day, seven days a week.

There is apparently "activity" on Riverwood. Any hopes that we (finally shamed by our faucets?) or our friends (fresh from new funds from England) might be able to buy a house there later this year were apparently slim. But, accord-

ing to the head of Long and Foster, one of Washington's biggest realtor groups, "anything over \$450,000 is slow". The price of 10704 Riverwood Drive is \$2.2 million. Mr Cowan admits that business is tough, but says that the "Number One" still managed to make four deals last week. He is still confidently "self-employed, single and happy". If big sales get fewer, he can always concentrate for a while on cheaper houses.

As the inner areas decayed, the outer ring took on a new independent life of its own. Some of the biggest-grossing shopping malls in the world were suddenly in places like Potomac Mills, which had barely existed a few years before. It was a pattern for America. Fourteen million people today commute from suburb to cities; 27 million from suburb to suburb.

The question for the builders of Potomac is whether their fields of mansions will be left as high-priced detritus if the tide of the city's development begins to turn. For without the social cachet of a desirable address, these domestic architectural monsters are useless.

Unlike many large English houses which time and fashion forgot, they are not even fit to be children's homes, or dormitories for the down-and-out.

Many would like to see them ploughed back into the land.

Perhaps generations to come will find their remains, as we find the remains of Roman towns, and know their inhabitants by the splendour of their baths.



COLLECTING

Cards up the earth's sleeve

Alastair Guild on how the rainforests will benefit from a pack of cards

FIFTY-eight of the country's most distinguished artists and designers were recently invited to create a design for a "transformation" playing card pack on the theme of rainforests and animals. Next Wednesday their original artwork goes under the hammer at Bonhams as part of Friends of the Earth's Rainforest Festival, and later the designs will be produced as packs of cards for sale.

"It was a fiendishly difficult assignment," says Nicola Bayley, an illustrator of children's books, who has also painted watercolours for other environmental and children's charities. She designed the six of diamonds, based on the pattern of her kitchen floor.

For Sir Hugh Casson, the difficulty was in choosing a design for the two of diamonds that would "put across an appropriate, arresting message and, at the same time, look good hanging on a wall. A letter is always an excitement, and if it comes from a romantic place and looks as though it has been through hell on the way, that adds to the attractiveness of the message. I found an old envelope from my school days, sent from Papua New Guinea, so I could copy the postmark and the stamp. Papua New Guinea also seemed apt, as one of the world's most threatened areas." The envelope incorporates a "Fragile" sticker, and its seals are the diamond shapes.

"The ones I like the most

are those closest to the true spirit of transformation cards," says John Berry, editor of *Playing Card World*, one of two publications of the International Playing Card Society, and an expert on the subject. "The suit signs, or pips, are where they should be, and

MUSEUMS

Digging for victory

At Norwich they have an unfair advantage, as John Shaw reports



TONY HALL
History on the doorstep: Francis Cheetham at the dig in front of Norwich Castle

incorporated into the overall design. If it is cleverly done it is difficult to pick out the suits."

The first complete pack of transformation cards was published by Cotta in Germany in 1804, and is now available in facsimile. "The last transformation cards in the great tradition were US colour printed cards, published towards the end of the last century," Mr Berry says. "One of these packs recently fetched about £5,000 in a private sale. Most of those who have tried to follow the idea this century have displaced the pipe to be distorted or distorted."

One of John Berry's favourites in the latest pack is the eight of clubs, by Jan Pienkowski, incorporating exotic birds on top of the suit sign. Similarly, John Jensen has adapted the nine of spades to look like a fish.

Simon Drew was dealt one of the toughest briefs, the 10 of clubs. He transformed the suit signs into ducks' heads and frogs. Gordon Benningfield has represented diamond shapes by spaces between butterflies, while Peter Cross drew hearts in the shape of the open mouths of forest natives, chimpanzees and tigers.

But John Berry's favourite is the ace of diamonds, by Lucy Willis. A vulture chick-mouth wide open in the shape of a diamond, sits in a ravaged environment, trees dying all around, while its parents hover overhead, vainly looking for food.

As director of the county

Chinese Pavilion: 12-sided, painted canvas portable summer house, the only one of its kind, now the centrepiece of a garden exhibition. The Duke of Montagu probably used it for taking tea in the summer at his Thame-side house. The Museum of London, London SW7, Wednesday May 23 at 6pm. For further details about the auction and other Rainforest Festival events phone Arts of the Earth (071-490 4670/490 5210)

EXHIBITIONS

from the reserve collection. Stoke-on-Trent Museum and Art Gallery, Benthall Street, Hanley (0782 202173). Mon-Sat 10.30am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm. Admission free, until July 15.

TAKING OFF: The story of transatlantic flight from the earliest days to Richard Branson's hot-air balloon crossing in 1987. Imperial War Museum, Duxford, near Cambridge (0223 633953). Daily 10am-6pm, admission £4.50, children £2.50, parking available.

CAMPUS

The world's their stage

Louise Chantal on the challenge facing Oxford University Dramatic Society

THE Tokyo Globe may seem an extreme alternative to the closed Oxford Playhouse, but Oxford University Dramatic Society (OUDS) has successfully toured to that 700-seat theatre for the past two years. So if Tokyo's Globe is possible, and all the world's a stage, why not the USSR, Hong Kong, Australia and the US? It was this thought that sent Richard Long and myself, co-presidents of OUDS, around the world for 12 days to organize this summer's international tour.

The tour is the showpiece of 12 months of change and restoration. When the university initiated the endowment of a visiting professorship of contemporary theatre by the producer, Cameron Mackintosh, it seemed to be the cue for action. Stephen Sondheim, the first incumbent of the new post, and his successors would be out of place at a university without theatre, drama faculty or any kind of production or co-ordination body for the legion of student shows presented here.

So OUDS has independently refurbished the Burton-Taylor Theatre, a 50-seat studio built in 1973 after a donation by that illustrious couple, and hitherto unable to secure a public licence. OUDS members have been finalists at the National Student Drama Festival in both 1989 and 1990, winning the company award last year. We have also initiated a New Writing festival, several international exchanges, and a regular series of professionally led workshops.

OUDS is touring with two very different productions — *Twelfth Night* and *Find Me*, a contemporary play by a London-based American writer, Olwen Wymark, which

portrays the anguish and joy in the life of a violently insane girl. While the Shakespeare can be lavish with its humour and fill the largest of prosceniums, *Find Me* was originally a workshop piece, thriving best in an intimate space, and the tour provides a generous mix of venues ideally suited to one or the other.

On the pre-tour trip we whirled from press conference to theatre, from airport to embassy, interview, studio and theatre, conscious of having to pick up as much information about the cities, people and venues as possible to pass on to the company. We were mugged in New York, fed and fed up in Los Angeles, welcomed in Australia.

We also put forward the idea of a regular international student theatre festival, the first of which we hope to host in Oxford in 1991. Every group we approached enthused, and we now have plans for the exchange of international theatre for several years using OUDS as a bureau of contacts and information. Suddenly we had before us plans to send Sydney University to Russia, Harvard to Japan, and bring Chung Ying from Hong Kong to Oxford. The only thing that this tour now needs is £70,000, to enable us to get to the Bing Theatre in LA, the Melbourne Alexandra, and a little town in Fukuoka called Oki Machi, where I'm told the whole town is likely to turn up to watch us perform, and there won't be a dry eye in the house, although the audience barely speaks English. My money, if we get it, is on that being the highlight of the whole tour.

John Shaw

OUT AND ABOUT

Romans and Georgians on tap

Nigel Andrew explores the perfectly organized history of Britain's original and best leisure and pleasure city, Bath

It comes bubbling out of the earth hot-sprout, it tastes as if it had recently been used to boil cabbage, and it built a city. The water of Bath, gushing from the only hot spring in England, even today seems to inspire a kind of superstitious wonder. Visitors to the baths may be drawn by antiquarian interest and simple sightseeing urges, but thousands of them throw coins into the water for luck, and few can resist trailing their fingers in it, despite the warning notices everywhere (the water in the baths is untreated, and might be a health risk).

Today's votaries are not, generally, in search of health. They come to enjoy the elegant amenities of what is still, despite three decades of municipal vandalism, a great Georgian city, a city of which the baths are the natural focus. It is, as it has been for a quarter of a millennium, a resort city, designed for leisure and pleasure — though its 18th-century planners could hardly have envisaged tourist invasions on the modern scale. In summer the city often reaches something like bursting point.

It was old Bladud's pigs who started it all. Bladud, a king of the Britons in the 9th century BC (son of Hudibras and father of Lear), caught leprosy and was banished from court. He became a swineherd, but his pigs too were afflicted with a distressing skin condition. One day they chanced on a tempting puddle of warm mud, had a good wallow in it — and were cured. Bladud tried it himself, found it worked on him too, and was eventually able to return to court. In gratitude he cleared the hot spring of mud and established a shrine to the goddess Sulis, around which, many centuries later, the city of Bath was to develop.

A quaint seated statue of Bladud (17th-century work) still presides over the King's Bath. Here, and in the now demolished Queen's Bath, both open to the sky, centuries of invalids, hypochondriacs and pleasure-seekers took to the opaque, steaming waters. It was all pretty informal, not to say licentious, and when the baths began to attract a fashionable clientele in the 18th century, things had to change. Manners were reformed (up to a point) and the city was rebuilt on a grand scale as the greatest and handsomest of English spas, with all the amenities of polite society. In the course of this wholesale reconstruction, wonderful discoveries were made. The Roman city began to give up its treasures.

The first and greatest find was made in 1727 by workmen digging a

sewer trench in Stall Street. It was a life-sized head of Minerva, the goddess of the springs, astonishingly well preserved, made of gilded bronze. It is now the prize exhibit in the Roman Baths Museum, beautifully displayed in a dramatically lit transparent box. All the great finds which followed — the Gorgon's head pediment, the Luna pediment, the tombstones and votive altars — are exhibited with similar flair in this modern, uncluttered, brilliantly organized museum. It occupies the actual site of the great Roman bathing establishment which was uncovered in all its glory in a series of systematic excavations beginning in the 1860s. Hence it is some 20 feet underground, in a carefully modulated gloom, from which the exhibits stand out in eye-catching pools of light.

It is a museum of large gestures, in proportion to the scale of the remains. There are big, bold inscriptions — including an evocative quotation from a Saxon poem about the ruins of Roman Bath — a large, well-mounted relief plan of the ancient city, and a huge wooden model of the baths complex.

Complex is the word: the more the excavators dug, the more they found, eventually unearthing a gigantic Roman "leisure centre" with temple attached, nearly all of which is now on view, in various states of preservation or dilapidation. With the honourable exception of the Great Bath (which we shall be coming to), nothing is faked, no gaps filled in with dubious reconstructions. There is really no need for any of that, for these are far and away the most extensive and coherent Roman remains in England — if we leave aside Hadrian's Wall, anyway. The excavations and finds are displayed with a lucidity and verve rarely encountered at Roman sites.

The smaller exhibits include the temple treasures of silver and pewter and coins offered to the goddess piled up in such quantities they suggest a jackpot spilling from the celestial fruit machine. Latin curses were also thrown into the sacred spring, and some of the deciphered inscriptions show a fine, timeless vindictiveness: "Docimelis has lost two gloves; he asks that the person who has stolen them should lose his mind and his eyes in the temple where she appoints." Docimelis must have been rather attached to those gloves.

The inscriptions on the tombstones and altars, on the other hand, are models of sensible Roman restraint, stoical, resigned to fate, emotionally detached. These monuments once lined the roads into the



Still waters running green: the Great Bath, unearthed in the 1880s with its Roman lead lining intact

smart resort which grew up around the sacred, health-giving, pleasure-bringing hot spring.

The centre of the Roman "leisure complex" was, of course, the Great Bath, the size of a modern swimming pool, in those days covered with a high, barrel-vaulted roof, now open to the elements. It is an extraordinary sight, and a quite astonishing survival: when it was unearthed in the 1880s, its Roman lead lining was found to be still intact. There is a charming photograph in the museum of late Victorian worthies standing around the newly reopened Great Bath, on which — a delightful touch — water lilies are floating.

Today the water lilies are gone,

but otherwise the Great Bath is very much as the Victorians left it, embellished with convincing statues of Roman notables looking down on the greenish water from their places atop the colonnade. Visitors stroll among the columns, stand on the steps and peer into the murky depths, or lounge like said Romans in patches of trapped sunlight. The baths, like the city itself, still encourage ease, and anyway it is best to take these great remains at a leisurely pace: there is an awful lot to see, with whole suites of smaller bath-houses opening off the Great Bath at either end.

There is only one way to round off a visit to the Roman Baths — with refreshment in the Pump

Room, that sumptuous 18th-century interior, presided over by the statue of Beau Nash, who did so much to make Bath what it is, or was. The water (treated) can be bought by the glass, and the Pump Room Trio might be playing — with noisy competition from more raucous entertainments going on in the Piazza outside. Beyond lies the abbey, Sally Lunn's, the Pulteney bridge, the Assembly Rooms, the Circus and Royal Crescent, and all the glories of Georgian Bath. The city has come a long way from that puddle of warm mud.

• The Roman Baths and Museum, Bath, Avon, are open daily (summer 9am-6pm). Adult £2.70, child £1.40.

OUTINGS

Forest festivities

The Rainforest Festival, the largest ever to be organized by Friends of the Earth and supporters, begins today for two weeks with hundreds of different events from classical concerts to children's workshops taking place throughout the country. Proceeds from the festival will be used for FOE scientific research, and to fund forestry initiatives in Brazil, Africa, Malaysia and Papua New Guinea. Today's events include a local festival in the Imperial Gardens, Cheltenham; a family parrot picnic in Priory Park, Prittlewell, Southend; children's activities, bands and music in the shopping precinct, Worcester; a concert at Stevenage College; cabaret and films at the Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham; and a rainforest band at the Oxford Venue, Oxford. Tomorrow there is a sponsored family walk in the Malvern Hills and benefit concert at Campus West, Welwyn and Hatfield. In London tomorrow you can support the cause by attending the Rainforest Recital at the Wigmore Hall, listen to the Greenwood Orchestra at St Mary the Virgin, Primrose Hill, or attend — in tropical fancy dress — the jungle hop at the London Pavilion, Piccadilly. The Barbican centre is organizing dozens of foyer events and children's workshops throughout the week.

Further information about these and other events taking place in your area can be obtained by ringing the Festival Office (071-490 4670/5210) today 10am-4pm, tomorrow 11am-4pm, weekdays 9am-4pm.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE 75TH ANNIVERSARY MAY FAIR: Organized by the West Yorkshire Federation, a two-day fair with the emphasis on country pursuits. Bands, Morris men, vintage cars both days. WI marquee with a craft fair, exhibitions, stalls, demonstrations. Licensed bar and other refreshments. Nostell Priory, Doncaster Road, Nostell, near Wakefield, West Yorkshire. Today noon-5pm, tomorrow 11am-5pm. Adult £1.50, child 70p.

MUNHEAD CEMETERY OPEN DAY: Annual opportunity to explore the 52-acre Victorian cemetery. Free conducted tours on the hour from noon, natural history walks, a genealogy desk, brass rubbings, children's activities. Nunhead Cemetery, London Grove, London SE15. Today, 11am-5pm. Further information 081-639 1813.

SHEEP SHEARING DAY: Rare breeds from the farm and others from nearby flocks will be expertly shorn. Also spinning and weaving. Denman Fair Breeds Centre, Park Farm, Shaftesbury Road, Gillingham, Dorset. Tomorrow 10am-5pm, adult £2, child £1.50.

FESTIVAL OF FLOWERS AT ROGANTIDE: The church will be filled with flowers and crops from the field and garden. A concert by the Cappella Singers today, Rogation service tomorrow evening with the Bishop of Gloucester. Church tower open and light refreshment available in the churchyard.

St Martin's, North Nibley, Dursley, Gloucestershire, today, tomorrow. 10am-5pm, adult £2, child £1.50.

MEDIEVAL MAY FAIR: 125 crafts sited under marquees with many of the craftsmen and women in period dress. Demonstration and supporting entertainment. Cranleigh Agricultural Showground, Cranleigh, Surrey. Today, tomorrow.

CARS AT THE DOCKYARD: Rolls-Royce enthusiasts parade their vehicles throughout. Static display of vintage and veteran vehicles. Also an art exhibition. Chatham Historic Dockyard, Chatham, Kent (0334 812551). Tomorrow 10am-8pm, adults £4.50, child £2.50, family ticket (two adults, two children) £10.

Judy Froshaug

MOTORING CHALLENGE

Along the Silk Road

New adventures befall the members of the London to Peking car convoy as it reaches China. Graham Rock reports



streets lined with excited locals; the crowd was estimated at over 100,000 and in places allowed a clearance of three inches on either side of the vehicle. Mothers held out their children to be blessed by the Challengers and at times eager spectators blocked the way.

Moving through the desert mountains, those stopping to take photographs were hurried along by traffic police. After another interminable fuel stop, we trudled into Turfan and sat down to dinner at 11.30pm. Turfan is the lowest inhabited place in the world, and the Challenge had reached its nadir. Revolution was in the air.

When Mildred Cable roamed this area 60 years ago she met in Turfan spiders with bodies as large as pigeons' eggs which made a crunching sound when they devoured their prey. It wouldn't have mattered if we had peeled back the bed clothes to find a nest of vipers, we would have happily have snuggled up alongside.

Late-night negotiations between the organizers of the Challenge and Mr Ma produced a compromise. We would travel in convoy through the built-up areas,

The Silk Road has existed as

a trading route between the East and the West for over 2,000 years. It is mostly sealed now, although there is a stretch of 40 miles between Hami and Dunhuang which is unsealed. Road is a flattering euphemism for the hills, bumps, rut, ribs, rocks, pot-holes and sand which we had to negotiate. At times a camel would have been quicker, but all the vehicles survived, although the 1939 BSA lost its sidecar when the mounting gave way.

One car which out-paced many of its more modern rivals over this inhospitable terrain was the 1930 Model A Ford, with American Don Saunders at the wheel. The Ford is on its second drive around the world, and in Alma Ata had won an automobile gymkhana in which Challengers defeated the local opposition, taking the first three places.

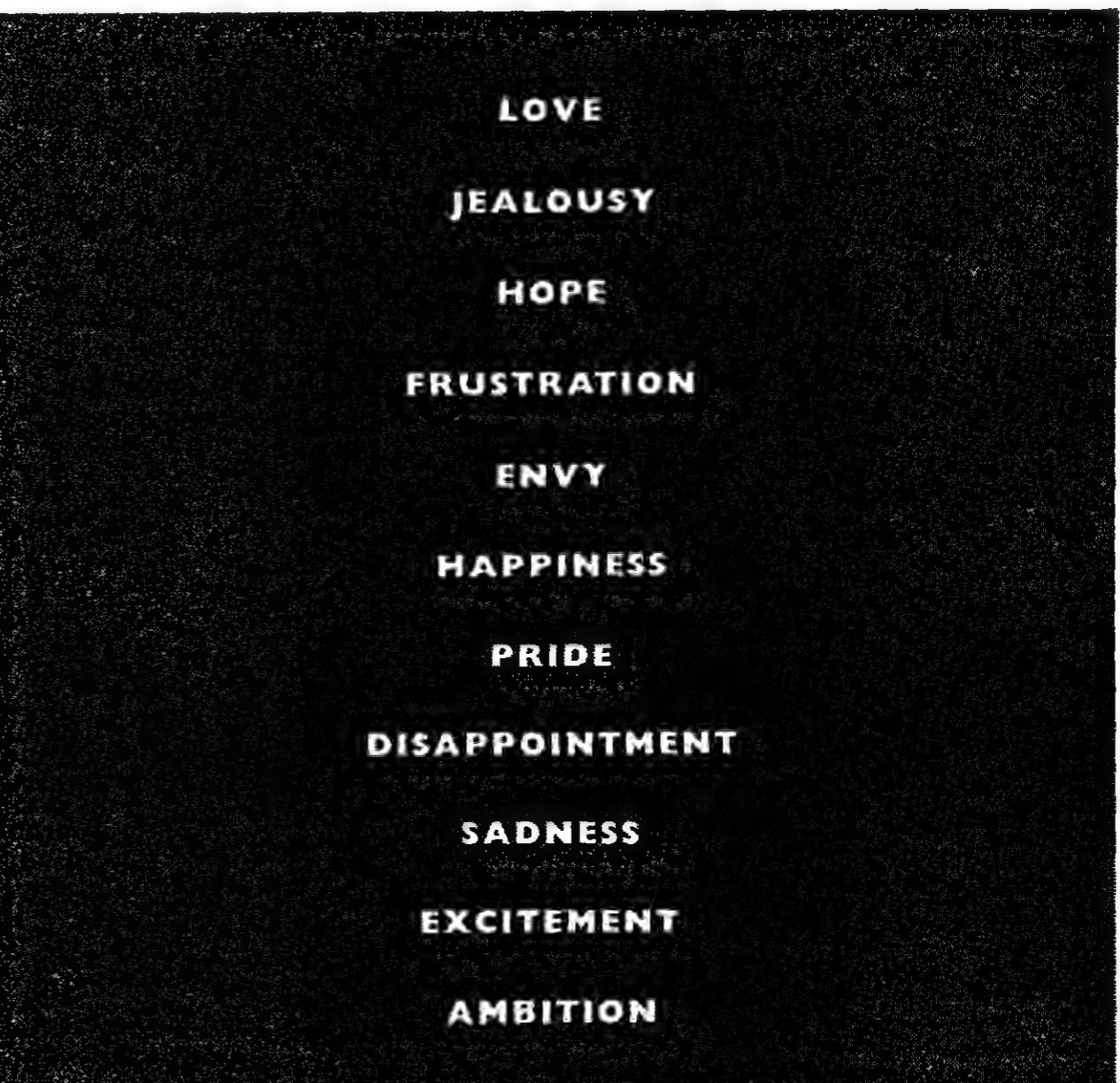
During our first few days in China a modern BMW and Mercedes holed their unguarded sums, the chassis of the 1929 Ford Model A estate had cracked and a BMW motorcycle was temporarily halted by a hole in a piston. The repair team of Roger Cote and Andy Tatlow coped with all of them.

Dust-clouds enveloped the cars for the most tortuous section of the Gobi, and when we eventually reached the Dunhuang Hotel the desert had found its way into the suitcases locked in the boot.

The major disappointment of our week came at Hami. Passing through in the 13th century, Marco Polo was delighted to record that visiting strangers were handed over to local wives by their husbands.

"The guest stays with his wife and does what he will with her, lying with her in one bed just as if she was his own wife, and they lead a gay life together. The women are beautiful and vivacious and always ready to oblige."

Just the sort of thing we Challengers had come to expect, you might think, but some customs have failed to survive the passing of centuries.



There are one million blind and partially sighted people living in Britain today.

At the Royal National Institute for the Blind, we help thousands of them get on with the ordinary business of ordinary life.

The RNIB Looking Glass Appeal has now been set up so we can help fund our schools, colleges, and all the other services we run to help Britain's blind people live their lives to the full.

We need to raise £10 million, and every penny counts.

Please give what you can.

I enclose a cheque payable to RNIB or please charge my Access card <input type="checkbox"/>	Visa <input type="checkbox"/> card with the amount of £ _____	TIMES
Acc No. _____	Name _____	Address _____
Postcode _____	RNIB, Freepost 29, London W1E 3QZ	
For credit card donations ring Chantilly 089 77777. Calls charged at 25p per min, cheap rate, 38p per min at peak rate, 175p per min of call charge goes to RNIB		

**RNIB
LOOKING
GLASS
APPEAL**

Robin Young looks at the timely arrival of alternative meat in supermarkets

One man's meat...

In a week when renewed concern about BSE has a lot of people worrying whether their meat might not also be their poison, it is reassuring to report that two of the supermarket chains have taken initiatives to make available to their customers meat that is produced with care and concern for animal welfare, health and the environment.

Safeway has been selling organic beef in selected stores (chosen because they were the ones which sold most organic fruit and vegetables) since January, having taken five years to find an adequate and dependable source. This month it has added organic lamb. Organic meat, produced in conformity with Soil Association standards, is available in 17 Safeway stores in London and the South East, and at Comely Bank in Edinburgh. Organic beef sells at a 35 per cent premium over the price of ordinary beef. With lamb the organic meat is about 15 per cent more expensive. To organically-minded customers, though, such prices are apparently no obstacle. "We simply sell as much as we can get hold of," says a Safeway spokesman.

Lack of availability and, he says, a purely practical background convinced Tom Gillon, the trade controller for meat at Asda, that organic was not for him. Instead this week Asda launched Conservation Grade beef and lamb in six stores — Watford, Nottingham, Southgate Circus, Burgh Heath, Farnborough (Hants), and Roehampton Vale. Mr Gillon hopes to have enough Conservation Grade meat — selected by the Pure Meat Company and "farmed and produced with care and concern for the welfare of livestock and the land" — to put in 20 shops by the end of the year.

Asda already has a unique livestock scheme, in which it controls the production of meat, "from conception to consumption". It now includes 130 farmers with 10,000 cattle, producing about one-fifth of the company's beef requirements. That, and Asda's outdoor pig production scheme, could soon be converted to Conservation Grade production standards too, Mr Gillon says.

In 1789, our nobility became scarce.

Our revolution two hundred years ago did not entirely eradicate our aristocracy.

At the Château de Saint-Amour in the Beaujolais, elitism of the most acceptable sort is practised.

Instead of the traditional blending of wines for the various crus, the juice from the Château's pampered Gamay grapes is bottled alone.

The wine that results is the magnificent Château de Saint-Amour and there is never enough produced.

The distinctive wine of Château de Saint-Amour is passionately scarlet, with a bouquet of luscious blackberries, and a taste that inspires poets.

But should we tempt you in this manner? Château de Saint-Amour is not easy to find. And if you should chance to discover a bottle, you will find it is not cheap.

Every drop produced is sold exclusively to us, Piat & Fils, négociants in the Beaujolais for over a century.

And our bottle, derived from the mediaeval pot of the Beaujolais, is a worthy home for such an aristocrat.

PIAT & FILS. NÉGOCIANTS EN VINS FINS DU BEAUJOLAIS — MACONNAIS DEPUIS 1849.



Packing a protein punch

Frances Bissell explores ways to cook with the mushroom's healthy distant relative, Quorn

Recently I have been sampling some health foods ancient and modern. The new one is Quorn, a myco-protein derived from a distant relative of the mushroom, described as a healthy alternative to meat.

It has been around for a few years in made-up recipe dishes, but it becomes a much more interesting option altogether now that it is sold as a "raw" ingredient for which the cook can devise his or her own recipes. I am not sure that I really like it, but I'm fascinated by it. In flavour and texture, as well as colour, it most resembles chunks of breast meat from a ready-basted turkey. The protein, which is entirely vegetable based, is mixed with a stock flavoured solely with natural vegetable flavourings, and bound with a little egg white to give it a meat-like chewiness and resilience.

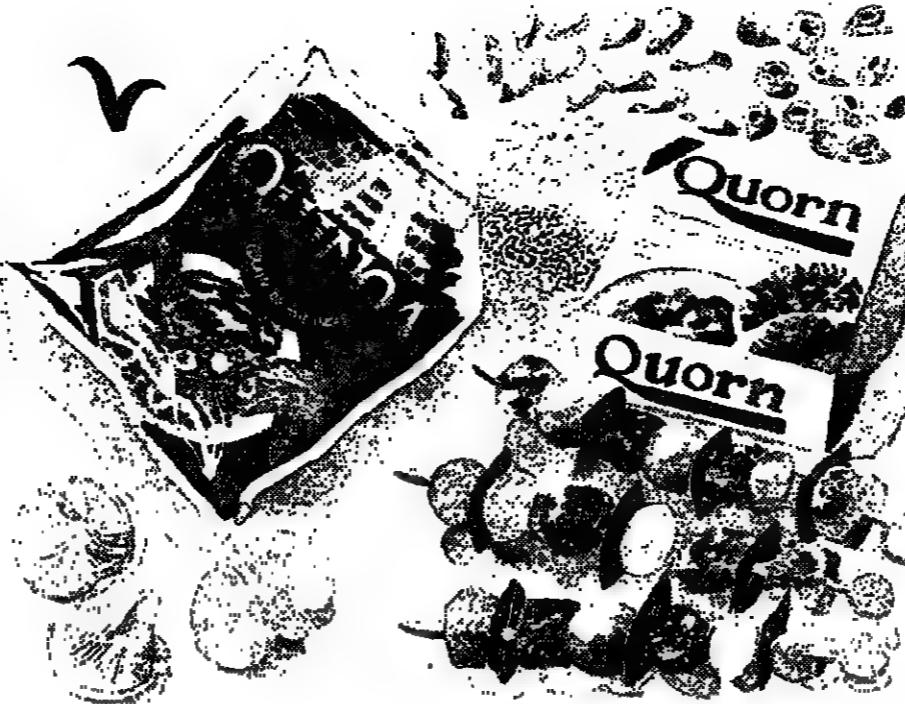
They are, accordingly, willing to see animals vaccinated, dosed with antibiotics if necessary, and rid of worms and parasites with chemical aids, as long as those treatments are shown to take effect only on the animal, and not thereafter on the environment or those who subsequently consume the meat.

Similarly, while organic farmers will use only organic fertilizers, the Guild of Conservation Food Producers' rules permit the use of low-solubility artificial fertilizers which will not leach into the water supply.

There are several characteristics that you need to take account of when cooking it. The substance is highly absorbent of colours and flavours. Marinating it in red wine leaves it pink throughout the cooking, unless you dry it thoroughly first and then fry it to a nice brown, as you would with a meat casserole. And it does brown well. If using stronger marinades such as soy sauce, dilute with water.

Frying the chopped mixture needs a large deep pan, as the tiny pieces have a tendency to jump and spit in the heat. Because all the juices in Quorn are water-based rather than fat-based — which is what contributes to its healthy, low-calorie image — it can produce a very dry dish, especially as a pasta sauce, unless you add plenty of liquid. It is also a dense, filling food, and a 250g pack (about 9oz) will feed four people. 100g contains 11.8g protein, 2g carbohydrate, 3.5g fat (of which 0.6g is saturated), 4.8g of dietary fibre and 86 calories, just over half that contained in cooked chicken breasts without the skin.

To begin with, it will be available only in the London area, at a cost of £2.19 for a 250g packet. I am told that 90 per cent of the people who eat



Quorn are not vegetarians. Certainly it would be most unappealing to those who dislike the taste and texture of meat, since it closely resembles it. Vegans cannot eat it because it contains albumen. But for those who no longer eat meat on moral grounds, and those who wish to reduce their intake of animal fat, this is something to try.

Quinoa (what a pity I am not doing an alphabetical guide to unusual ingredients) has been around for several thousand years. It is a grass which grows in the Andes, and is now cultivated on a large scale in China and America, used for both its leaves and its seeds. These are very tiny and round, no bigger than sesame seeds, and cook quickly, absorbing up to three times their volume of water. The seeds contain twice the protein of white rice and fewer carbohydrates, and 100g will give 8g dietary fibre. It is absolutely delicious, with a flavour all its own, although not unlike that of sweet corn without the sweetness. It cooks to a pale, creamy green, and can be eaten hot, like rice, or mixed with chopped vegetables and vinaigrette and eaten as a salad. Use it as a stuffing for vegetables, as a filler in vegetarian burgers and loaves, or in soups. Like rice, quinoa can be cooked by the

absorption method, or in plenty of water and then drained. If you use the latter method, save the cooking liquid, which makes an excellent vegetable stock. Quinoa is available from healthfood shops and is imported by Direct Foods, 25 Hayhill Industrial Estate, Sileby Road, Barrow-on-Solent, Hampshire SO12 8LD.

Quorn sauce for pasta (Serves 6)

- 1 onion
- 1 celery stalk
- 3 or 4 garlic cloves
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 tsp fresh or ½ tsp dried thyme
- 1 can (475g) peeled tomatoes, roughly chopped
- 14pt/140ml dry red wine
- 1 packet Quorn
- up to 14pt/140ml vegetable stock
- salt
- pepper

Marinated indishes (Serves 4)

- 1 packet (250g) Quorn
- 3 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- 1 tsp lemon juice
- ½ tsp ground coriander
- ½ tsp ground cumin
- ½ tsp chopped thyme
- 8 cherry tomatoes
- 16 button mushrooms
- fresh parsley, mint or coriander leaves for garnish

Put the pieces of Quorn in a bowl, and mix with two tablespoons olive oil, the lemon juice, spices and herbs. Leave to marinate for 20-30 minutes. Brush the rest of the olive oil over the mushrooms. Thread the pieces of Quorn, cherry tomatoes and mushrooms on skewers, together with a bayleaf or two, if you wish. Place on a rack under a hot grill, and grill for eight to

Quinoa and mushroom strudel (Serves 4)

Use a mixture of oyster and shiitake mushrooms; if possible, a few pieces of soaked ceps will add flavour to ordinary button mushrooms

- 5oz/170g quinoa
- 18 fl oz/510ml water
- pinch of salt
- 3oz/85g butter or olive oil
- ½lb/340g mushrooms, sliced
- 4 tomatoes, peeled, seeded and diced
- 6 spring onions, trimmed and sliced
- 1 tbsp fresh chervil, tarragon or parsley, chopped
- seasoning to taste
- 4 sheets filo pastry
- 2oz/60g lightly toasted pine nuts

Cook the quinoa in the lightly salted water, and when cooked, allow to cool. Put about 1½oz/40g butter or oil in a frying pan, and fry the mushrooms for about eight to 10 minutes. Remove and put to one side. Mix the tomatoes, spring onions and herbs with the quinoa and season to taste.

Unfold the filo pastry. Melt the remaining butter, and brush each sheet with it, laying each one on top of the other. Spoon half the quinoa in a line, about 3in/7.5cm from one edge. Spoon the mushrooms on top, and then the rest of the quinoa, smoothing it over with your hands. Sprinkle the pine nuts on top. Carefully fold up the pastry, enclosing the filling, and transfer it to a lightly greased baking tray. Brush on any remaining butter, and bake in a pre-heated oven at 200°C/400°F, gas mark 6 for about 25 minutes.

Here is a pudding in keeping with the previous recipes. If you like to eat puddings every day, it makes sense to look for low-fat and low-calorie alternatives to butter, cream and sugar. On balance, I prefer to eat puddings just occasionally and use the traditional ingredients rather than the ersatz. Silken tofu is one of those derivatives of the useful soya bean. It is a pale, creamy substance with little flavour of its own, and a texture like that of cream, but only 2.6 per cent fat against 48 per cent in double cream. It costs about £1.20 for a 10oz pack and, like the other ingredients I mentioned, is available from some health food shops.

Banana and rum ice

- 4 ripe bananas
- 2 tbsp rum

2 tbsp honey or more to taste

juice of ½ lemon or 1 orange

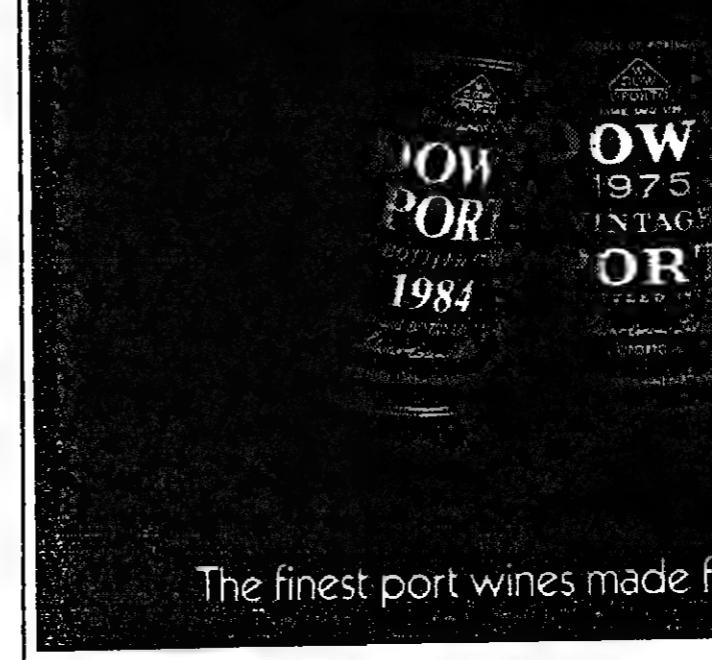
- 1 packet silken tofu

pinch cinnamon or nutmeg

Peel the bananas, and put them with the rest of the ingredients in a blender. Blend until smooth, and then freeze in an ice-cream maker or in a suitable container in the freezer, stirring it occasionally to break up the crystals and ensure a smooth freeze.

© Times Newspapers Ltd 1990

Hard to get. Never.



The finest port wines made for two.

One
petite
mistake.



"So he won't let us marry?"

Malcolm looked up.

"That's what he said."

"But what changed his mind?"

"I haven't a clue." He poured out another glass of chilled Petite Liquorelle, SAVOURING the peillant mixture of Bordeaux wine and fine old COGNAC. "I just asked for your hand."

"And what did he say?"

"He said. The man who marries my daughter will receive a prize beyond COMPARE."

"So what's the problem?"

"I asked to see the prize first..."

THINK PETITE. Petite Liquorelle. From the house of Moët & Chandon.



Holiday reading

Ian Penman

ON TOUR
The British Traveller in Europe
Edited by Michael Foss
Michael O'Mara, £14.95

The spoor laid by Michael Foss's traveller leads us back to an Edenic scene before the Fall of package travel, airspace for all, Michelin and chips. Foss's fastidious selection — of travellers' writing, rather than travel writing — recalls a time when we were more attentive to our social behaviour and etiquette.

On Tour offers a timely reminder of a world gone by, in which travel was a subdued exploration of self and national identity. But this is not one of those inoffensive gift-for-Auntie collections (how could it be, with the ever-reliable Boswell lurking in the cast?). Derived from centuries of travel and writing, *On Tour* registers a sensibility based on respectful curiosity for the differences of national etiquette (as Horace Walpole puts it, "something most dissonant from our manner") — travel not as gluttony, but a gradual enrichment of sensibility.

There is some beautiful writing — plain, clear, clean, without unnecessary flourish or flavour; like this, from Hazlitt: "You see the figure of a girl sitting in the sun, so still that her dress seems like streaks of red and black chalk against the wall." Without the encumbrance of ingrained snobbery or "expertise", these are minds sharpened (not made ponderous or gooeey) by their steps.

Patrick Leigh Fermor closes the book with a lamentation from the early Sixties, when already he foresees and fears the coming of tourism, in all its bulldozing arrogance. Tourism, he realizes, substitutes for the quiet enjoyment of other peoples, other lands, an entirely ersatz experience.

On Tour illustrates how the British sensibility can shed its parochialism and learn from the traditions of others. Part of the British realisation is that we cling to past roots which no longer nourish anybody's present. *On Tour* is not one of those cosy, embalmed collections that merely spruce up our private prejudices; it may well make you want to consider anew how you look abroad. Required holiday reading, in fact.



Double crowns

Hugo Vickers

THE KING'S WIFE
Five Queen Consorts
By Robert Gray
Secker & Warburg, £17.95

Robert Gray is the master of the concise, dry, witty phrase, and this is what makes his dissertation on five of our Queen consorts so enjoyable. He begins with a warning from Shakespeare: "Cover your heads, and mock not flesh and blood with solemn reverence." I am not quite sure how closely he follows it.

Gray begins with Eleanor of Aquitaine, my closest knowledge of whom was previously gleaned from Katherine Hepburn's sterling performance in *The Lion in Winter*.

This woman of the south, or Demon Queen, married both the Kings of France and England, accompanied her lord and master on crusades, was accused of numerous affairs and other intrigues, and finally was locked up somewhere in England, literally at His Majesty's pleasure, for the King then felt free to indulge himself with his mistresses. Eleanor was set free after Henry's death, and had 15 years of liberty, and more problems with her sons and grandson.

Henrietta Maria's life was enriched by Charles I's private virtue and wrecked by his public inadequacy", writes Gray. Likewise, Catherine of Braganza is presented as a "good, defenceless, unremarkable woman who marries a charming and powerful cad. She adores him, naturally; is abominably treated, of course... In short Charles II reaped the rewards of a model husband while behaving like an arrant scoundrel."

With Caroline of Brunswick, the author warns us we are in for a dose of "sleazy sensationalism". He reckons that George IV and his insatiable bride were "two frightful people endeavouring, with considerable success, to render each

other's lives miserable". It is hard not to feel sorry for poor Queen Caroline, despite her obvious shortcomings: her longing to marry "the finest and most handsome prince in the world", only to be confronted by the wretched Regent, averting his gaze in disgust and demanding a brandy.

According to Caroline he "passed the greatest part of his bridal-night under the grue, where he fell, and where I left him". The author clearly had an interesting time, perusing the 1,400 pages of evidence for her trial: "... servants giving evidence of this same Queen's conduct in terms which will still shock, even in the liberated 20th century". Alas, Caroline was dead within a month of her frustrated attempt to attend the Coronation.

Queen Mary was a different prospect for the author. She was, he informs us, "a big potato". He explains that this was a bizarre compliment paid to her by Field Marshal Smuts, who went on to pronounce that all the other queens were "small potatoes". The reference may have been lost on the Queen's grandmother, because she was far from agriculturally minded. There is the famous story of her stay at Badminton when she looked wistfully across the fields and exclaimed: "Ah, so that is what hay looks like."

Despite the beastly comments from the Duke of Windsor, shamefully quoted after his death, concerning the ice that ran through his mother's veins, there is little more to be said about Queen Mary. James Pope-Hennessy produced the ultimate masterpiece on her life, to which Mr Gray pays fulsome tribute. Here he gives us a nice précis of that most dutiful of royal lives.

I suspect that Mr Gray might have been rather good on Queen Alexandra. I feel that her last years have not yet been done justice, and there are one or two survivors who saw and talked to her. I insist he includes her in a second volume.

The war that is not a

A brave, but doomed, attempt to make sense of the conflict in Northern Ireland: review by Charles Townshend

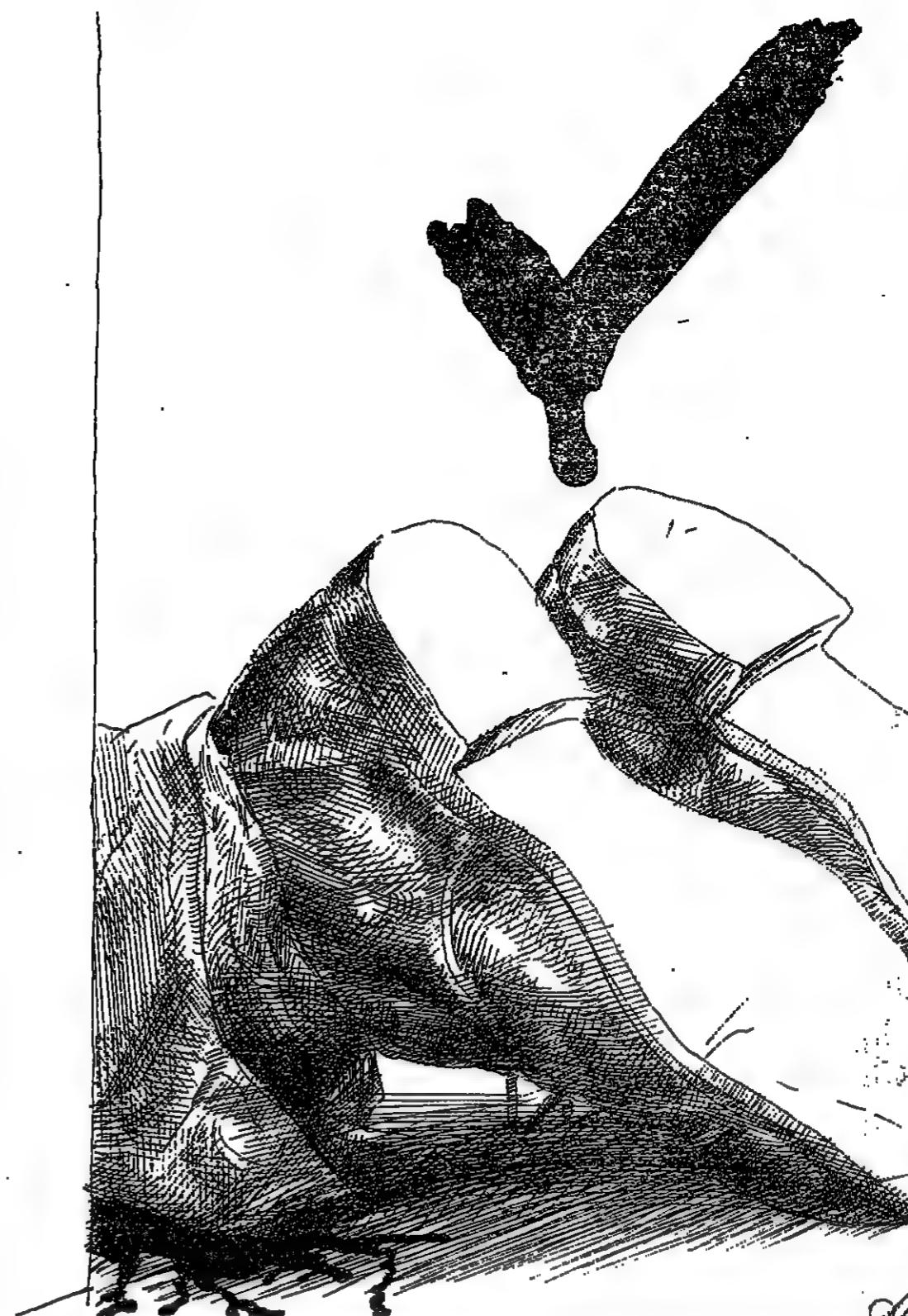
THE DIRTY WAR
By Martin Dillon
Hutchinson, £16.95

This is a book with a profoundly resonant title. It vibrates with echoes of *la sale guerre*, the French war for Algeria, a war marked by the most pervasive terrorism of recent times, atrocity and counter-atrocity, and the systematic use of official tortures, which ultimately brought France to the brink of public catastrophe. *The Dirty War* instantly invokes comparison with Alistair Horne's celebrated study of Algeria, *A Savage War of Peace*.

The comparison is no doubt unfair to Martin Dillon, but by any standards his book is a considerable disappointment. Despite its epic scale — its 500 pages are billed as the second part of a promised trilogy — it makes almost no attempt to grapple with the scale and significance of the Irish conflict. Its declared aims are more modest: "to prise open some of the issues, to unravel some of the stories which have become distorted by the propaganda of either side and to tease out the complexity of the backdrop to the war".

Pain enough, perhaps. In the circumstances of communal violence, sectarian assassinations, paramilitary organizations and clandestine "security" forces, prising open issues and unravelling stories are no mean tasks. And there is no mistaking the honesty and pertinacity — and sheer guts — with which Martin Dillon has pursued his stories. This is tough investigative journalism, and gives us state-of-the-art coverage of many mysteries, some of which have already consumed thousands of column inches, some of which are barely known.

But there is something missing. It is not just that many of the stories date from the 1970s and seem to be of marginal relevance to the 1990s, nor that even the vast profusion of characters and incidents supplied by Dillon leaves many other important cases unexamined. (The whole "shoot-to-kill" crisis is very cursorily treated.) The real problem is that as a whole this mountain of evidence is inconsequential. In one sense this is inexplicable. Too much of the evidence is tainted, unconfirmable, improbable, or contradictory. One of Dillon's milder-mouthed characters bursts out at one point in the O'Doherty investigation, "He is a snivelling bastard. I friggin' well never did any of these things. How could you take the word of that lying bastard?" A good question. Dillon is trawling a world in which security forces and rebels alike are driven to take and act on the word of such people. He is as sound a guide through it as one could expect, but his conclusions are often lame, and



prefaced by "we may never know..." or "perhaps some day the truth will come out".

In another sense the inconsequentiality of this book is less excusable. Readers of a hefty tome like this are entitled to expect more than a collection of ongoing inquiries. (Dillon is already updating the hypotheses he offered in the first part of his trilogy, *The Shankill Butchers*, published last year.) That is what the Press and broadcasting are for; books are for analysis, synthesis, reflection. In this book the issues are not prised open. The Northern Ireland conflict raises big questions, and it calls for more than a recognition that "the dirty war often generates more questions than it answers".

The biggest question is whether it is a war at all. To this the conventional answer seems to be that it is neither war nor peace; more than a crime wave but less than a rebellion. We do not have legal or political terms for it. We — or the Government — say that it is "an emergency threatening the life

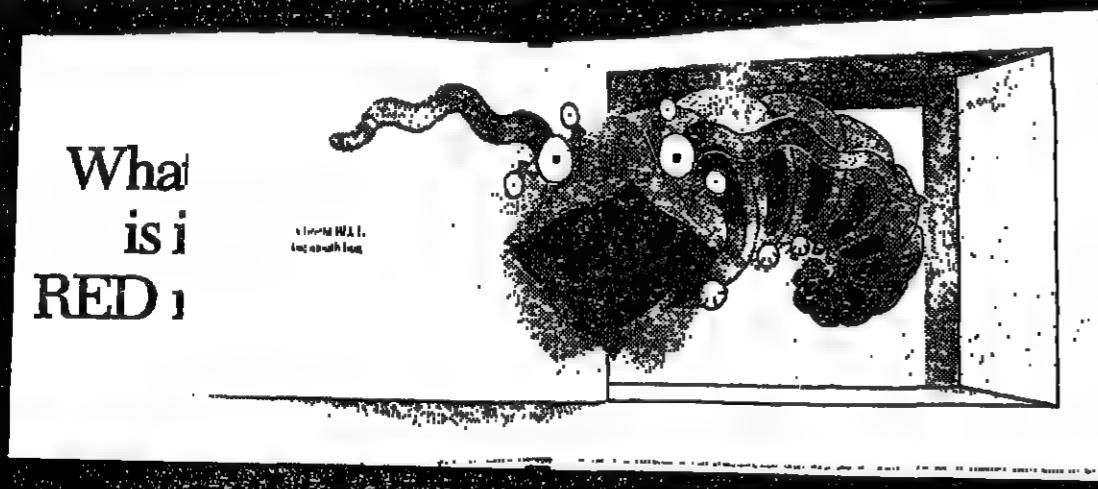
of the nation", in order to derogate from the European Convention on Human Rights, but cannot formally declare it to be a state of emergency. Things cannot be left like this. The way in which the conflict is defined is crucial to the relationship between "terrorists" and people, and the powers and actions of the security forces.

Any answer to this central question has to start from the contours of the conflict as a whole. Dillon's readers will get a very vague impression of this. He mentions that in South Armagh things are quite different from Belfast; he also points out that popular involvement in the conflict has declined since the 1970s, and that "terrorism has been institutionalized". Beyond these brief remarks, the reader will have to work out from the grim litany of explosions and "executions" the texture of social and political life in the six counties since 1969. The reader is expected to be familiar with the difference between Provos and "Sticks", or between the Irish National Libera-

tion Army and the Irish People's Liberation Organization. Such things appear to be merely incidental to their results in bloodshed and mayhem. We are offered the view that "it is a generally accepted principle that the use of agents and informers is a necessary, if not essential, means of defeating terrorism", without any attempt to say what "terrorism" is or whether it is defeatable. Yet this issue is at the core of any public assessment of state policy. Since there is no formal emergency, special security forces like the SAS must operate clandestinely. Is this in the best interests of the rule of law?

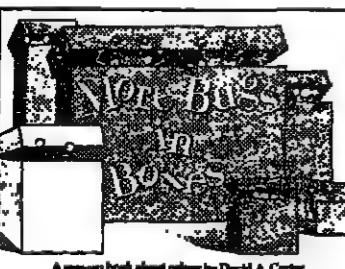
Dillon's treatment of the actions of such units as the Military Reconnaissance/Reaction Force, the Ulster Defence Regiment and the E4 section of the RUC, suggests that he does not think it is. Perhaps he believes that journalistic objectivity requires him not to make his thought explicit; if so, that is a pity. Fellow journalists like Duncan Campbell or Peter Taylor have not been similarly hamstrung. If he

Purple prose, green readers



What
is i
RED

Open your mouth and shut your eyes: plenty of colourful pop-up surprises for young bug-fans



CHILDREN
Brian Alderson
MORE BUGS IN BOXES
A Pop-up Book about Colour
By David A. Carter
Orchard Books, £7.95

The pop-ups keep on popping up, the flap-ups keep on flapping and the fold-ups folding. Only last month an apparently new company, Messrs GoodBook, began importing a whole raft of novelties from Italy: board books with holes in them, like *In the Jungle* (£5.95), a panorama with one hole running all the way through, prettily called "a poke and play concertina book". *Where Do You Live?* (£2.50), and an ingenious "caroussel book" whose pages slot together to make a three-dimensional scenic display, *On the Farm* (£6.95).

But the toy element in these creations all too easily supersedes the book element. Smooth, colourful production hardly excuses such texts as:

*The fearless rhino
Strong and stout
Sharp pointed horn
On the end of his snout*

or a picture book about vehicles, with holes where the wheels are, and much distortion elsewhere.

The more reason, therefore, to welcome *More Bugs in Boxes* as a pop-up which gets a proper coherence between the idea of naming a variety of colours, and the mechanism for turning it into an entertainment. As you may guess, the book is American — a successor to the equally successful *How Many Bugs in a Box?* — and, like that book, it mimics clever paper-engineering with an absurd but inviting text: "What kind of a bug is in the gorgeous GREEN gift box?" asks the author; and when you open the wrapping up comes "A loopy little LAVENDER bug".

Mr Carter doesn't see why a book for primary readers should be restricted to primary colours, and among the assorted containers that he produces we have a double-wrapped brown and beige box containing a bug-within-a-bug, and a fast-flying fuchsia box, containing a smirky, silver Spitfire bug. You can almost chew the words as you progress from one surprise to another — and when you get to the end there is a last monumental pop-up eight inches high, to bring things to an appropriate painterly climax.

How to be a Beatle

Joseph Connolly

BRIAN EPSTEIN: The Man Who Made The Beatles
By Ray Coleman
Penguin, £5.99



Beautiful and dutiful: Epstein

The name is pronounced Epstein: from school days on, Brian was most particular about this, as he was about everything else. In this engaging and diligently researched biography, he is constantly recalled as appearing as if he had "just stepped out of the shower" or as having "just had a bath"; this I take to mean that he always looked not so much dripping wet as downright smart.

Epstein was the eldest son of a prosperous Jewish Liverpool family whom he failed to please by leaving Oxford and deciding that he did not want to pursue law, the Jewish religion or business, but rather fancied the idea of Catholi-

cism and designing dresses. He attended RADA, but dropped that too. A reluctant homosexual, Epstein was seen by his mother Queenie to be "beautiful and dutiful" and by the marriage-conscious local Jewish girls (when word got out) as the "Immaculate Deception". The first thing (and, one feels ultimately, the only thing) that Epstein felt wholly committed to was the Beatles, and he simply set about devoting 24 hours a day to making them "bigger than Elvis".

Epstein was from the beginning besotted with John Lennon (who, at the time, lived in Menlove Avenue) and tolerated his endless gibes, a mild example being Lennon's suggestion for the title of Epstein's autobiography: "How about Queer Jew, Brian?". The possibility of a one-off sexual liaison between the two has been endlessly debated, but in this book on balance rejected. Although none of the recollections come from the Beatles themselves, what shines through is Epstein's scrupulous honesty and commitment. He lived for his mother (he telephoned her every night of his life), the Beatles, Cilla Black and Gerry Marsden (of the Pacemakers); this was his family, and all, in their way, to making them "bigger than Elvis".

Epstein was from the beginning besotted with John Lennon (who, at the time, lived in Menlove Avenue) and tolerated his endless gibes, a mild example being Lennon's suggestion for the title of Epstein's autobiography: "How about Queer Jew, Brian?". The possibility of a one-off sexual liaison between the two has been endlessly debated, but in this book on balance rejected. Although none of the recollections come from the Beatles themselves, what shines through is Epstein's scrupulous honesty and commitment. He lived for his mother (he telephoned her every night of his life), the Beatles, Cilla Black and Gerry Marsden (of the Pacemakers); this was his family, and all, in their way,

to making them "bigger than Elvis".

This is a week for those hankering after the exotic. With the exception of Edmund Crispin, these are all crime novels with heroes and heroines (professional and amateur sleuths) memorable more for their eccentric behaviour and characteristics than for the meticulous elimination of clues and suspects. The emphasis is on outlandish, offbeat backgrounds, unlikely plots.

The characters, in order of appearance, are: an Oxford don, owner of an enormous raincoat and extraordinary hats; a tall, black, beautiful daughter of a UN diplomat; a professional private eye making a strange living in Nazi Germany; and a blonde rock singer involved in tales of night-club mayhem. An eccentric Englishman, a Berliner, a half "Senegalese", and a Czech provide a heady international background.

The reissue of Edmund Crispin's *Swan Song* (first published in 1947) breaks the silence in the garden. Mrs Rolleston says, without apparent irony: "We are the Jews of Ireland". There are no bitter herbs on her sabbath table, but the Rollestons and their cousin/governess Sarah Pollexfen have fallen into William Trevor's characteristic "bitter world". The old Protestant ascendancy is breaking apart and, forced to wander, to fight unwanted wars, the family begins to crumble: sons stand ineffectually in poses struck by fathers, play captains and kings in boarding-house bedrooms, and refuse to see the irony. Only Sarah's ledger-book diary, always at one remove from events, is a reliable accounting of what is going on.

Trevor's most effective method is what movie makers call slow dissolve. By contrast, Jennifer Johnston works in sharp close-up, straightforwardly. In *The Captains and the Kings* (Penguin, £3.99), her subject is broadly the same, an Anglo-Irish family riven by the

is a splendid reminder of the intricate craft involved in creating a superior locked room mystery. Crispin provides neatly observed characters, clues honestly presented, a denouement which is both outrageous and satisfying and a splendidly offhand opening which sets the tone for what is to follow. "There are few creatures more stupid than the average singer. It would appear that the fractious adjustment of larynx, glottis and sinuses required in the production of beautiful sounds must almost invariably be accompanied — so perverse are the habits of Providence — by the wilfulness of a barnyard fowl." Gervase Fen, casually brought in by a member of the company about to perform the first Wagnerian work since before the war, has to unravel two murders, to cope with the unpredictability of the artistic temperament, and attempt to encourage the course of true love.

A nat

First World War, and both book look back directly to the very origins of Irish writing in Maria Edgeworth's haunted *Castle Rackrent*. Mr Prendergast, fatally infected with nostalgia, is left alone with a silent gardener and with his memories until young Dianne comes along and restores a measure of vitality. It is a less subtle portrayal of disintegration than Trevor's, but this was Jennifer Johnston's first novel (written in 1971) and his unipenneth.

Both write about worlds in which

MARSHA HUNT
An impressive writing debut Sunday Times
It is at once heartbreaking and hopeful — a novel bursting with sincerity Guardian
Like Toni Morrison's Beloved, it leaves you reeling, but has to be read Observer
• JOY.
A very accomplished piece of work. Genuine literary talent, intricately constructed and skilfully written, Joy is a smart, assured mixture of tragedy and wry comedy. The Listener
Impressive first novel which reveals with subtle skill what it was like to grow up black in America in the forties and fifties Daily Mail
Joy provides a rich, engaging read with plenty of subtle wisdom and humour New Statesman & Society

£12.95

CENTURY

الله من الأصل

OKS

war

Mr Hall prefaces his first chapter with this verse: "Remember me when I was gone away/Gone far away into the silent land/For now I leave behind me a dream/That is for ever Greyfriars." This he cheerfully attributes "After Christina Rossetti and Rupert Brooke". From the outset, then, you are made aware that you are in the company of a man who has heard a different drummer from the rest of us.

That drummer was Charles Hamilton, alias Frank Richards, alias Owen Conquest, alias Martin Clifford, Ralph Redway, Hilda Richards, a man who on every day of his adult life wrote 6,000 words and once, pushed, 18,000 words. Three thousand characters flicker in this astonishing output, among them Billy Bunter, Mr Quelch and Harry Wharton.

This book, in form a biography, appears under the imprint of the Wharton Press, a publishing house which has probably never brought out a book before and perhaps never will again. Mr Hall, a retired accountant, lives in Wharton Lodge. So it is an impertinence to review this book, for it is not really a biography at all but one man's record of a very old gentleman who captured his imagination long ago and whose hold on it has not relaxed. You are on hallowed ground.

But there is a wonderful DIY air about the whole enterprise as figures unknown to literary London, clearly Mr Hall's friends, get wheeled on to pass judgement. A Dr Franglen says of Hamilton's

Housekeepers, bungalows, and deadlines

Byron Rogers

I SAY, YOU FELLOWS
By Maurice Hall
Wharton Press, £14.95

mother, who seems to have changed her name as the whim took her, from Mary Anne to Marion to Marianne, was "a determined social climber".

Titanic struggles, again hitherto unknown, are mentioned. "We now reach a point where controversy was to break out; it has continued without slackening to this day." This refers to the occasion when a man called John Nix Pentelow, editor of the *Magnet*, wrote a story under one of Hamilton's many aliases and airily killed off one of his characters in Athene from his skull (classical allusion was Frank's great joy).

William George Bunter was now ready to stretch his legs. Would they be strong enough to lift this Leviathan into the sky and into the annals of schoolboy fiction?" That's metaphor for you, boy. And this again when, aged 20, he first meets Richards/Hamilton (Chapter 15). I met Charles Hamilton, "a little black skull cap on his head, crumpled corduroy trousers, dark

fortunes of two weekly mass circulation magazines hung in the balance. A cloud descended on the Amalgamated Press. But none of the substitute writers had dared kill off the *dramatis personae* before.

You must forgive the metaphors and the short sentences; they tend to enter the blood when a man reads Frank Richards. Glints of suspicion enter the eyes; clouds settle on faces. Nobody ever says anything; they roar or thunder or, in the case of Bunter, ejaculate. Mr Hall has drunk deeply of this well, as for the paragraphs spring full-formed like Athene from his skull (classical allusion was Frank's great joy).

"William George Bunter was now ready to stretch his legs. Would they be strong enough to lift this Leviathan into the sky and into the annals of schoolboy fiction?" That's metaphor for you, boy. And this again when, aged 20, he first meets Richards/Hamilton (Chapter 15). I met Charles Hamilton, "a little black skull cap on his head, crumpled corduroy trousers, dark

dressing gown, pipe in hand, an aura of his indefinable greatness wrapped around him like an invisible cloak".

There is none of the wariness here of modern criticism and literary reviewing. Mr Hall does not wait to see what his neighbour thinks. Fashionable opinions and prizes are elsewhere, and you are with him in a cosy bunker dedicated to the memory of a strange gentleman about whose life we know little more than we do about Shakespeare's.

Who, when he needed to think, sat in a boat (and had a pond, complete with boat, set into the garden of his bungalow); who never revealed what school he himself went to; who loved the Classics and translated "Walzing Matilda" and "The Daring Young Man on the Flying Trapeze" into Latin. As for the rest it was just housekeepers, more bungalows, and deadlines.

But the structure of the book is the author's pilgrimage. After his hero's death Mr Hall finds in his study the boys' magazines which Hamilton had kept (he had to buy his own copies from a newsagent), issues out of the Golden Age but "tattered, often torn and loosely tied with string in little bundles". And it is clear from their condition that they had not meant that much to Hamilton.

Yet even this does not dent his faith. As retirement finally comes, an accountant can record his tribute to a man who made him happy when he was young. You do not often come on books like this.



Jacobitism takes to the streets: anti-Hanoverian riots in 1716

Flourishing times

Jonathan Clark

JACOBITISM AND THE ENGLISH PEOPLE, 1688-1788
By Paul Kleber Monod
Cambridge, £30

A labourer from Tewkesbury, William Colley, said in 1691: "There is no king in England but James. And where is one for King William there are two for King James in England if there were occasion." Nor did such attitudes obligingly fade away. Even in 1746 Jeffery Batterby, a shoemaker from Bury in Lancashire, risked dire penalties by declaring that: "King George has no more right to the Crown than you or I have and that King James had the only right thereto. And you will see he will come to the Throne and then we shall have flourishing times."

Such attitudes were not just the high theory of Oxford common rooms; they were vividly proletarian. And they lasted: across the country, for half a century after the Revolution of 1688, mobs rioted to cries of "No Hanover". "A Restoration, a Stuart, High Church and Ormonde"; "No King George, King James the Third"; "Down with the Rump"; "Down with the Roundheads". Memories were long; repression was vicious and bloody. This is the first scholarly book to recover the concrete detail of daily life in an England torn by princely conflict.

It finds its evidence for Jacobitism not in political conspiracies and diplomatic manoeuvres, not even in ideology; these were for the few. Monod looks instead to "words, images, forms of behaviour" at local level – propaganda, commemorative artefacts, riots, the seditious outbursts of plebeians, the social rituals of the gentry, the social profile of those who rebelled.

Far from being the preserve of a few romantic or reactionary elitists, Jacobitism was widespread throughout society, and pointed towards proletarian subversion as much as stable hierarchy. Far from being anti-modernist, Jacobites tried – like George III, Queen Victoria, the presidents of many republics and even the Communist Party of the Soviet Union – to promote unity by dignifying authority and magnifying its mythic component. The Stuarts sought to do this in one way, the Hanoverians in another. James II and George IV were almost equally inept at this task: it was really thanks to Victoria that all lines converged in Walter Bagehot.

Modern sensibilities then subtly distorted the nature of Jacobitism. Nineteenth-century Tories saw its hard realities through the lens of Romanticism; 19th-century Whigs turned sturdy native forms into threats to masculinity and Englishness, and so, through guilt by association, made Jacobitism the enemy of modernity.

A doctrine so morally depraved and politically extreme, Whigs implied, could only be the property of a small minority. But, replied the Romantics, what a splendid, dashing minority!

Between them, Romantics and revolutionary modernists established a mental framework in which Jacobitism could only look silly, or insignificant, or both. It was as if historians in the 22nd century were so preoccupied by issues of gender and environment that they squeezed socialism off their map of the 20th century. Was it not mere Utopian fantasy? Could it ever have worked?

Yet grown men still become apoplectic about Jacobitism. Writing in *The Independent* recently, Hugh Trevor-Roper railed against what he imagined were the opinions of his former colleagues at Peterhouse, that "the Revolution of 1688 was a crime", the Enlightenment a disaster; that some had acclaimed the Old Pretender as really King James III; that, in some unexplained way, these views went with beliefs "that the wrong side" won the First World War and that Hitler should have been allowed to win the Second".

There is no future in arguing with anyone persuaded by a *non sequitur* balanced on a fantasy. But it is important that we see that the recovery of quite different forms of thought and commitment in past centuries is still profoundly offensive to at least one present-day outlook that seeks to appropriate the title "liberal".

Historians must beware: they are playing a dangerous game when they raise the standard of rebellion against latter-day Whig tyranny.

Friend or foe?

William Jackson

THE RELUCTANT ENEMIES
By Warren Tute
Collins, £16

misappreciations, misunderstandings and, indeed, duplicity on both sides. The destruction of the French fleet at Mers-el-Kebir, the Dakar fiasco, the British invasion of Syria, and the subsequent seizure of Madagascar, all led to the final denouement of the Anglo-American landing in French North Africa, which triggered Hitler's occupation of the whole of France, the scuttling of the French fleet at Toulon, and the death of Darien.

The most telling parts of this book are the well-structured pen pictures of the interaction of the many complex personalities involved. Darien as head of the French armed forces and Petain's heir apparent plays the villain of the piece. Scion of a long-established naval family – his great grandfather was killed at Trafalgar in the Redoubtable, from the foretop of which the shot was fired that fatally wounded Nelson – he was overtly anti-German, but intuitively anti-British, and a man to whom political intrigue came naturally.

"Maybe Duleepshahji's cap is something that should never be worn out of doors," say the authors, in a brilliantly coded message accessible only to those who have been well and truly suckered by the world's second greatest game, "but collecting is a happy joyous thing".

It is reassuring to learn that the greatest collectors, with the obvious exceptions of Barlow, Rockley Wilson, and Appleyard, are players of "only mediocre ability". Those that can, do; those that can't, collect. And what a cornucopia of collectibles there is to choose from: a picture of W. G. Grace walking out to bat made entirely from match-sticks, an 1898 cast-iron cigar cutter featuring Ranjitsinhji

and a photograph of the author.

The tragedy of Tute's story lies,

as he says, in the way in which the great majority of the French people willingly gave their allegiance to a dolt, who gravely misled them, not, as they claim, for the sake of honour, but because of a lamentable lack of moral courage. Only after the American entry into the war and Hitler's defeat before Moscow did the Resistance become a hesitant reality.

This book, lightly and skilfully written, is a fitting epitaph to Warren Tute's literary career.

One Wisden (1957), slightly foxed; Gunn and Moore bat with which author made top score (11*) for Connaught House School versus Hill Brow; seven-seat bench formerly in Mount Stand, possibly sat on by author, mother, and younger brother, Middlesex versus Lancs c. 1953, structurally sound though could do lick of paint; one jock strap, MCC colours, specially designed by David Cull, still in use.

Not much of a job lot to the really serious collector of cricketana, but all my own. Any self-respecting household should be able to boast something similar, for the hoarding of things to do with cricket is, as this book so vividly demonstrates, an essential part of the English character. If a chap can't keep a straight bat, he'll never bowl a maiden over.

"Maybe Duleepshahji's cap is something that should never be worn out of doors," say the authors, in a brilliantly coded message accessible only to those who have been well and truly suckered by the world's second greatest game, "but collecting is a happy joyous thing".

It is reassuring to learn that the greatest collectors, with the obvious exceptions of Barlow, Rockley Wilson, and Appleyard, are players of "only mediocre ability". Those that can, do; those that can't, collect. And what a cornucopia of collectibles there is to choose from: a picture of W. G. Grace walking out to bat made entirely from match-sticks, an 1898 cast-iron cigar cutter featuring Ranjitsinhji

and a photograph of the author.

The tragedy of Tute's story lies,

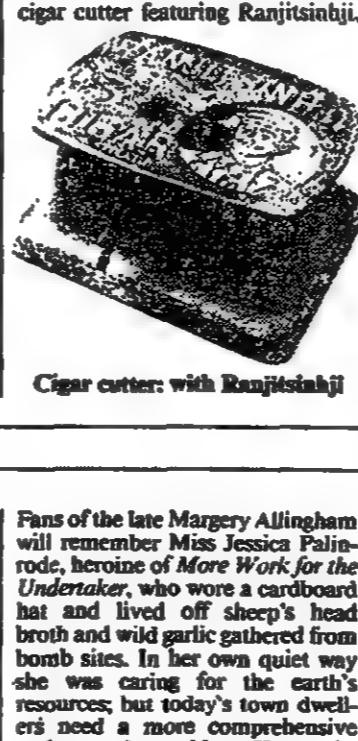
as he says, in the way in which the great majority of the French people willingly gave their allegiance to a dolt, who gravely misled them, not, as they claim, for the sake of honour, but because of a lamentable lack of moral courage. Only after the American entry into the war and Hitler's defeat before Moscow did the Resistance become a hesitant reality.

This book, lightly and skilfully written, is a fitting epitaph to Warren Tute's literary career.

A happy joyous thing

Tim Heald

THE WISDEN BOOK OF CRICKET MEMORABILIA
By Marcus Williams and Gordon Phillips
Leonard Publishing, £25



Cigar cutter: with Ranjitsinhji

Warner's *England v Australia 1911* 12 bound in kangaroo, J. M. W. Turner's "Wells Cathedral with a Game of Cricket", and Pissarro's "Cricket at Bedford Park". The Turner is at Port Sunlight, but the Pissarro is in Paris. French cricket should let us have it back. A case for Mr Palumbo?

Happily most cricketing collectibles come cheaper than these. A team of 12 enamelled balmoral lapel badges for Surrey issued by Robertsons, the jam people, went for a mere £140 at Phillips in 1986; an incomplete version of Lampough's Gold Medal Model Cricket realized £75 at Christie's a year later: a silver marine-type deskpiece inkwell, presented by Lord Ashton, President of Lancashire CCC to the captain, Lt Col L. Green, to commemorate the county's third successive championship, fetched only £260 in the same sale as the 12 Robertson notecase-golfwedges.

So the field is wide open. You could have got the ball that Clarie Grimmett used when taking nine for 74 against Cambridge in 1934 for £110. I think I know when I am on to a good thing. Item: one MCC jock strap. Do I hear ten guineas?

It finds its evidence for Jacobitism not in political conspiracies and diplomatic manoeuvres, not even in ideology; these were for the few. Monod looks instead to "words, images, forms of behaviour" at local level – propaganda, commemorative artefacts, riots, the seditious outbursts of plebeians, the social rituals of the gentry, the social profile of those who rebelled.

Far from being the preserve of a few romantic or reactionary elitists, Jacobitism was widespread throughout society, and pointed towards proletarian subversion as much as stable hierarchy. Far from being anti-modernist, Jacobites tried – like George III, Queen Victoria, the presidents of many republics and even the Communist Party of the Soviet Union – to promote unity by dignifying authority and magnifying its mythic component.

The Stuarts sought to do this in one way, the Hanoverians in another. James II and George IV were almost equally inept at this task: it was really thanks to Victoria that all lines converged in Walter Bagehot.

Modern sensibilities then subtly

balanced on a fantasy. But it is important that we see that the recovery of quite different forms of thought and commitment in past centuries is still profoundly offensive to at least one present-day outlook that seeks to appropriate the title "liberal".

Historians must beware: they are playing a dangerous game when they raise the standard of rebellion against latter-day Whig tyranny.

It finds its evidence for Jacobitism not in political conspiracies and diplomatic manoeuvres, not even in ideology; these were for the few. Monod looks instead to "words, images, forms of behaviour" at local level – propaganda, commemorative artefacts, riots, the seditious outbursts of plebeians, the social rituals of the gentry, the social profile of those who rebelled.

Far from being the preserve of a few romantic or reactionary elitists, Jacobitism was widespread throughout society, and pointed towards proletarian subversion as much as stable hierarchy. Far from being anti-modernist, Jacobites tried – like George III, Queen Victoria, the presidents of many republics and even the Communist Party of the Soviet Union – to promote unity by dignifying authority and magnifying its mythic component.

The Stuarts sought to do this in one way, the Hanoverians in another. James II and George IV were almost equally inept at this task: it was really thanks to Victoria that all lines converged in Walter Bagehot.

Modern sensibilities then subtly

balanced on a fantasy. But it is important that we see that the recovery of quite different forms of thought and commitment in past centuries is still profoundly offensive to at least one present-day outlook that seeks to appropriate the title "liberal".

Historians must beware: they are playing a dangerous game when they raise the standard of rebellion against latter-day Whig tyranny.

It finds its evidence for Jacobitism not in political conspiracies and diplomatic manoeuvres, not even in ideology; these were for the few. Monod looks instead to "words, images, forms of behaviour" at local level – propaganda, commemorative artefacts, riots, the seditious outbursts of plebeians, the social rituals of the gentry, the social profile of those who rebelled.

Far from being the preserve of a few romantic or reactionary elitists, Jacobitism was widespread throughout society, and pointed towards proletarian subversion as much as stable hierarchy. Far from being anti-modernist, Jacobites tried – like George III, Queen Victoria, the presidents of many republics and even the Communist Party of the Soviet Union – to promote unity by dignifying authority and magnifying its mythic component.

The Stuarts sought to do this in one way, the Hanoverians in another. James II and George IV were almost equally inept at this task: it was really thanks to Victoria that all lines converged in Walter Bagehot.

Modern sensibilities then subtly

balanced on a fantasy. But it is important that we see that the recovery of quite different forms of thought and commitment in past centuries is still profoundly offensive to at least one present-day outlook that seeks to appropriate the title "liberal".

Historians must beware: they are playing a dangerous game when they raise the standard of rebellion against latter-day Whig tyranny.

It finds its evidence for Jacobitism not in political conspiracies and diplomatic manoeuvres, not even in ideology; these were for the few. Monod looks instead to "words, images, forms of behaviour" at local level – propaganda, commemorative artefacts, riots, the seditious outbursts of plebeians, the social rituals of the gentry, the social profile of those who rebelled.

Far from being the preserve of a few romantic or reactionary elitists, Jacobitism was widespread throughout society, and pointed towards proletarian subversion as much as stable hierarchy. Far from being anti-modernist, Jacobites tried – like George III, Queen Victoria, the presidents of many republics and even the Communist Party of the Soviet Union – to promote unity by dignifying authority and magnifying its mythic component.

The Stuarts sought to do this in one way, the Hanoverians in another. James II and George IV were almost equally inept at this task: it was really thanks to Victoria that all lines converged in Walter Bagehot.

Modern sensibilities then subtly

balanced on a fantasy. But it is important that we see that the recovery of quite different forms of thought and commitment in past centuries is still profoundly offensive to at least one present-day outlook that seeks to appropriate the title "liberal".

Historians must beware: they are playing a dangerous game when they raise the standard of rebellion against latter-day Whig tyranny.

It finds its evidence for Jacobitism not in political conspiracies and diplomatic manoeuvres, not even in ideology; these were for the few. Monod looks instead to "words, images, forms of behaviour" at local level – propaganda, commemorative artefacts, riots, the seditious outbursts of plebeians, the social rituals of the gentry, the social profile of those who rebelled.

Far from being the preserve of a few romantic or reactionary elitists, Jacobitism was widespread throughout society, and pointed towards proletarian subversion as much as stable hierarchy. Far from being anti-modernist, Jacobites tried – like George III, Queen Victoria, the presidents of many republics and even the Communist Party of the Soviet Union – to promote unity by dignifying authority and magnifying its mythic component.

The Stuarts sought to do this in one way, the Hanoverians in another. James II and George IV were almost equally inept at this task: it was really thanks to Victoria that

RECORDS

Power and the glory

CLASSICAL

Hilary Finch

Beethoven: Nine Symphonies/Leonore No 3 (RCA GD60324; 5 discs)
Brahms: Four Symphonies/Haydn Variations/Double Concerto etc. (RCA GD60325; 4 discs)
Venice: Aida/Pastorale/Requiem etc. (RCA GD60326; 7 discs)
 All the above with the NBC Symphony Orchestra conducted by Arturo Toscanini

He was born before the invention of the phonograph, and 20 years later, in 1887, played the cello at the premiere of Verdi's *Otello*. And now Arturo Toscanini's entire recorded legacy is preserved and reproduced for posterity on both video and compact disc. RCA Victor's formidable programme of nine concert videos and 82 CDs is due for completion in 1992, on the 125th anniversary of the conductor's birth. It was launched recently in Rome, in the presence of Toscanini's daughter and grandson, and amid an international orgy of self-congratulation.

The first fruits of the great harvest, reaped from the first acoustic La Scala recordings of 1920 up to the television concerts of the early 1950s, are those made at the very end of his career. The transfers and remasterings made under the direction of John Pfeiffer are from tapes of the original recording sessions, not from the production masters for the 78s or LPs. As such, they faithfully, at times tryingly, maintain the dry, constricted acoustic which Toscanini himself favoured, whether in studio or in concert hall. The sound, though, is freshly focused and enlivened in digital remastering.

What it all reveals is not surprisingly, Toscanini's astonishing rhythmic rigour, his microscopic observation of detail, the fine transparency and alertness of his string playing. Less predictable, perhaps, for the general listener, will be the revelations (particularly on video) of Toscanini's own smouldering, hypnotic hold over his performers. The violinist Oscar Shumsky has admitted to feeling so dominated, almost owned, by the maestro that he escaped to chamber music. Something of that extraordinary chemistry is palpably present in the charge of energy transmitted, for instance, to the soloists of the Brahms Double Concerto, and in the obviously inspired contribution of the vocal quartet of Beethoven's Ninth. Here, for a brief epiphany moment, is a glimpse of how the voices can genuinely thrill as an organic part of the symphony's life.

The Beethoven is, in fact, Toscanini was something of a champion of the Ninth Symphony, at the turn of the century performances were still rare, let alone readings marked by such "subtle and significant modifications of tempo", as the New York Times critic noted of Toscanini's in 1913. Nearly 40 years on, the observation is still startlingly true, and nowhere more so than in the chorale finale. For once, every shift of tempo makes each, thrilling sense: the soloists relax into lyricism itself.

Toscanini's Brahms is, for me, less than great. There are moments of awe-inspiring insight, like the delicate, intuitive realization of Brahms's own *Allegro non troppo ma con brio* direction for the last movement of the First, and the sense of musical weights and measures finding their own instinctive level in the Andante of the Third. But Toscanini's is an uncomtemplative, and therefore a partial Brahms, often so meticulously studied that

Toscanini's only complete recorded cycle, and was made when he was between 82 and 85 years of age. The Second Symphony, recorded between 1949 and 1951, is one of his finest performances on disc. It is the culmination of his vision of the work as charged by brilliantly contrasting dynamics, biting rhythmic momentum, and a startling fusion of hard-edged sonority with the lightest and finest of string playing. The first movement passes as if in one long upbeat; the three-quaver pulse of the Larghetto draws one lightly suspended line of melody from a divertimento-like orchestral texture.

Received wisdom about Toscanini is questioned at many points in RCA's release, but nowhere more pointedly than in the Sixth Symphony. Far from being faster and more fiercely driven in the reputed tradition of his later performances, this "Pastoral" has an elasticity of rhythm, a flexibility of phrasing which seems to convey a particular affection for the work. It was, after all, the Beethoven which Toscanini broadcast most and recorded last.

The rhythmic primacy of the Seventh Symphony makes it, of course, Toscanini material *par excellence*, though the merciless driving of this finale does make it more of a relentless workout than the apotheosis of the dance. Toscanini's obsessional avoidance of anything too slow or too Germanic in this work results in the introduction becoming a crescendo of pounding semiquavers; the Vivace, with its tight, tense woodwind, is tinder-dry with expectation; and the slow movement's weightless counter-subject soon achieves rare urgency in its own right.

Toscanini was something of a champion of the Ninth Symphony, at the turn of the century performances were still rare, let alone readings marked by such "subtle and significant modifications of tempo", as the New York Times critic noted of Toscanini's in 1913. Nearly 40 years on, the observation is still startlingly true, and nowhere more so than in the chorale finale. For once, every shift of tempo makes each, thrilling sense: the soloists relax into lyricism itself.

Toscanini's Brahms is, for me, less than great. There are moments of awe-inspiring insight, like the delicate, intuitive realization of Brahms's own *Allegro non troppo ma con brio* direction for the last movement of the First, and the sense of musical weights and measures finding their own instinctive level in the Andante of the Third. But Toscanini's is an uncomtemplative, and therefore a partial Brahms, often so meticulously studied that



Hypnotic hold: the young Arturo Toscanini in 1887, the year of the world premiere of *La Bohème*

the conductor's profile becomes more sharply outlined than that of the composer.

For Toscanini, no opera was "more beautiful, more complete, newer and more Latin than *Falstaff*". And no recording of Verdi's great masterpieces is perhaps more perfectly paced, more joyful in ensemble, more vibrant in pulse than this NBC broadcast of 1950. Verdi never heard Toscanini's performance, though the conductor was only 26 when it received its première, but his librettist Boito conveyed his own "immense intellectual joy" at Toscanini's way with a work with which he obviously felt the deepest sympathy.

Few performances can offer wind playing comparable to that at the entry into Ford's garden: few show such a vivid palette of women's voices as that glowing from the casting of Herva Nelli, Nan Merriman, Clio Elmo and, above all, Teresa Stich-Randall's

Nannetta. Giuseppe Valdengo's Falstaff, with its dark underside of anger and melancholy, thrives in an environment of robust recitative, tingling ensemble and transparent string playing.

Aida, taken from studio performances of 1949 (and also available on video, RCA 9790346) is less magnificent vocally: Richard Tucker's Radames is a shade dry, Herva Nelli's Aida moves, but fails to thrill, and Valdengo's Amonasro lacks the sympathy or stature of his Falstaff. But the refinement of pacing and phrasing and the stifling tension of the private scenes contribute much that is remarkable to this performance.

Nelli plays a happier part in Toscanini's last great *Requiem* performance of 1951. The same boxed set also offers not only the *Te Deum*, but "Va, pensiero", Luisa Miller's "Quando le sere al placido", and the extraordinary *Hymn of the Nations* Verdi wrote for the London Exhibition of 1862. Toscanini, himself the son of a Garibaldi revolutionary, resurrected it in 1943 for an Office of War Information film, adding to its heady mélange of English, French and Italian national anthems a stirring coda of the *Internationale* and *The Star-Spangled Banner*. *Evviva Toscanini!*

CLASSICAL UPDATE

Tellis: *Sperm in silicon, etc.* Winchester Cathedral Choir (Hyperion CDA 65400)

A fine choice of Tellis's Latin setting, but the big star here is the majestic reverberation of Winchester Cathedral.

Record for Romania (Marco Polo 8.223305)

This release may profit Romania; but it does little for

Enescu: only the short

symphonic poem *Vox de la nature* shows a complex

personality, while the playing, by Romanian orchestras, is

passionate throughout.

Part 30 of David Sinclair's collectors' A-Z, a guide to the essential albums of the most enduring performers of rock. To qualify for inclusion in this series, an act must have sustained a recording career of at least 10 years, and have mastered at least one decent album during that time. The entries are designed to be pasted onto index cards and stored in a 6in by 4in filing box, available from most good stationery shops, to form an instant guide to the hits and misses of rock history.

A-Z GUIDE TO ROCK

THE KINKS



Opposite: Ray Davies

KOOL AND THE GANG

For a group with such a determinedly low profile, Kool and the Gang enjoyed a phenomenal strike rate throughout the Eighties, particularly in the US chart, with such hits as "Cherish", "Celebration", "Get Down on It" and "Victory" seemingly becoming part of the air that we breathe without ever fully impinging on the consciousness. A slick, melodic soul groove dominates *The Singles Collection*, released in 1988, a timely reminder of such triumphs, but one which inevitably ignores the first flowering of this unlikely collection of talents as one of the definitive street-funk bands of the early Seventies, alongside acts like War and the Ohio Players. Led from the rear by bassist Robert "Kool" Bell, abetted by his brother Ronald Bell on tenor and soprano saxophone, Kool and the Gang first powered into the American chart with *Wild and Peaceful* in 1974, an album which boasted the immortal cuts "Funky Stuff", "Jungle Boogie" and "Hollywood Swinging".

NEXT WEEK: Led Zeppelin, Level 42

ROCK UPDATE

Lee "Scratch" Perry From the Secret Laboratory (Mango MPLS 1035)

The legendary reggae producer emerges from a fallow period with sparks of his former genius.

All Farka Toure The River (World Circuit WCD 017) Rich and contemplative

music from Mali, tastefully embellished by the occasional addition of harmonica, percussion and saxophone.

Black Box Dreamland (Deconstruction PD 74572)

"Ride on Time" may have been the biggest hit single of last year, but it gave no indication that this Italian group had any

more to offer. Their album is surprisingly accomplished and offers a well-rounded collection of songs.

Billy Idol Charmed Life (Chrysalis CCG 1735)

Idol's image and lifestyle do not encourage the serious reading of his music, but his new album, the first since 1986, makes intelligent use of rock 'n' roll clichés.

Reed standing tall again

JAZZ

Clive Davis

Eddie Daniels *Nepenthe* (GRP 9607-2)
The Chick Corea Electric Band Inside Out (GRP 9601)
Randy Weston Portraits of Duke Ellington (Verve 841312)

Once the prince of jazz instruments, the clarinet has suffered badly in the post-war era, never recovering from the onslaught of bebop. Where Artie Shaw, Barney Bigard and Benny Goodman once led the way, a contemporary player such as Eddie Daniels now seems almost a freak of nature.

In the five years since the classical-jazz album *Breakthrough*, the 48-year-old New Yorker has generally been given a rough time by reviewers. Though reed players are constantly amazed by his control of tone in even the most tortuous sequences,

there has been an undeniably saccharine flavour to much of his work. In his progress through the various genres, from Charlie Parker riffs (*To Bird With Love*) to quasi-classical (*Memos From Paradise*), he has sounded like a virtuoso in search of the right formula.

In *Nepenthe* he has been given the glossy GRP fusion treatment. The process is usually fatal, but Daniels's sextet emerges unscathed, with tunes which function as more than mere background music. Though the album title refers to a mythical Egyptian narcotic, there is nothing sleep-inducing about Daniels's elegant improvisation on "Sun Dance" or "Equinox". His playing here is sparser than usual, no longer simply spilling out the arpeggios. The album does run out of energy by the end of its 60 minutes. It is at least a pleasant change to hear a clarinetist take

on material that is usually reserved for extrovert tenor saxophonists — and to hear the soloist band which allows the soloist plenty of space. Guitarist Chuck Loeb and drummer Dave Weckl encourage a sophisticated but uncluttered ambience.

For GRP at its very worst, one can turn to Chick Corea's Electric Band, which happens to include two of Daniels's sidemen — Weckl and bassist John Patitucci. Speeding along at a constant 100mph, the compositions amount to the sort of vacuous ge-whizzy that appeals to the more impressionable sixth-former. Corea's undisputed keyboard skills are spread dreadfully thin here. To complete the insult, his sleeve notes find space for full details of his agent, lawyer, fan club and clothes designer.

Back in the adult world, Randy Weston's tribute to Duke Ellington forms part of a trilogy including a collection of Thelonious Monk standards and a "self-portrait". Heavily influenced by Monk, the composer of "High Fly" plays six Ellington originals, accompanied by bassist Jamil Nasser, drummer Idris Muhammad and percussionist Eric Asante.

A saint's pounding African drums create an atmospheric prelude to "Caravan", a miniature which has been twisted out of shape by many a circus band. Expanding the piece to a full 12 minutes, Weston builds momentum with spacious, Monk-like chords. "Sepia Panorama", which formed a spectacular vehicle for Jimmy Blanton and Ben Webster in 1940, meanders through an 11-minute dialogue between piano and drums. Muhammad's New Orleans cross-rhythms toy with the time signature on "Limbo Jazz", but the result is mannered compared with the breezy jam session on Ellington's 1963 encounter with Coleman Hawkins.

JAZZ UPDATE

Mose Allison: *My Backyard* (Blue Note CDP-7983402)
 After a gap of almost three years, the singer-pianist is back with a modern New Orleans band and more deadpan reflections on the loser's life. Saxophonist Tony Dagradi and guitarist Steve Masakowski stir a soulful brew, taking some of the pleasure off of Allison's highly personalized voice.

Fats Waller And His Rhythm: *The Last Years* (RCA/Bluebird ND-90411) (3 CDs)
 A lavish collection of more

than 60 small group and big band tracks from the period 1940-1943. The mixture of vaudeville and genius culminates in a rendition of "Ain't Misbehavin'" cut for the all-black film musical *Stormy Weather*.

Thelonious Monk: *Genius of Modern Music, Volumes 1&2* (Blue Note CDP-781510/1)
 Some of the pianist-composer's earliest — and most enduring — recordings. The new reissued package finds space for alternate takes, though at the expense of a number of the collaborations with Milt Jackson.

Darkest deeds

SPOKEN WORD

Peter Davalle

Tales of Horror by Edgar Allan Poe (Listen for Pleasure, LFP7454)
Ghost Stories M.R. James (Argo 1145)

Sherlock Holmes (3) (BBC Radio Collection, ZBBC 1123)

When Fortunato, the villain of *The Cask of Amontillado*, says: "I shall not die of a cough", Lee injects so much prescient menace into the line that we dare hardly contemplate the nature of the doom that is planned for him.

Compared with the eye-popping horrors of Poe, the quintet of M.R. James ghost stories are mere goose-pimples, and the reassuring voice of Michael Hordern is absolutely right for them. You feel James himself might have selected Hordern to recount these restrained tales of haunted dolls' houses, diaries, and private schools.

The drama in the Sherlock Holmes cassettes — the third in the series — is, inevitably, more forensic than Poe's or James's. These are the BBC radio productions from the 1950s and 1960s, with Carleton Hobbs's definitive Holmes and Norman Shelley's ditto Watson. Four gripping case histories, including *The Musgrave Ritual* and *Black Peter*, with its nasty, Poe-type harpoon murder.

Queen Elizabeth Hall	June 29th 7.30pm
J.S. Bach The 6 Brandenburg Concertos	
Consort of London	
Robert Haydon Clark	
Sponsored by Collins Classics	
Booking Details: ...	
Royal Festival Hall	July 12th 7.30pm
Margaret Price	sings
Strauss 4 last Songs	
Royal Philharmonic Orchestra	
Conductor: Barry Wordsworth	
Booking Details: ...	

Various Artists/A Night At The Opera Double LP £8.99, Double Cassette £8.99, Double CD £15.99

A selection from the most celebrated works in the operatic repertoire performed by some of the world's greatest singers including Luciano Pavarotti, Kiri Te Kanawa and Plácido Domingo.

Prices correct at time of going to press.
 Available at all WH Smith Sounds Stockists.

WH SMITH
 More to discover



مكتبة من الأصل

A
 NIGHT
 AT THE
 OPERA

THERE'S
 A LOT
 GLASGOW
 ON IN
 1990.
 CULTURAL CAPITAL '90

To: Jazz Festival, P.O. Box 88,
 Glasgow G1 2ET.
 Name: _____
 Address: _____

 Postcode: _____
 T1905

GARDENING

As gardens start to run riot, Francesca Greenoak suggests a plan of action for their owners – and for flower show fans

CLARE ROBERTS

How does your garden grow?

There is a point in every year when the fecundity of foliage and flowers in the garden becomes slightly unnerving. Where only a short time earlier one rejoiced in the expansiveness, one now sees apprehensively that urgent action is required, as the garden loses definition in its billowing growth. Bushy plants such as hardy geraniums, jealous of the space allotted, impose on their more restrained neighbours; small delicacies are lost from sight, and the fresh strands of climbing plants tie themselves into aggressively intrusive knots.

At the same time an undercurrent of weed growth goes briskly into action; the annual meadow grass thickens its tufts by pathways and sends up its little flowering stems with such amazing rapidity that digging them up, you invariably spill the tiny seeds for its next crop. No longer can such weeds be considered as fuel for the compost heap, for the seeds will probably survive the heating and emerge to germinate next year.

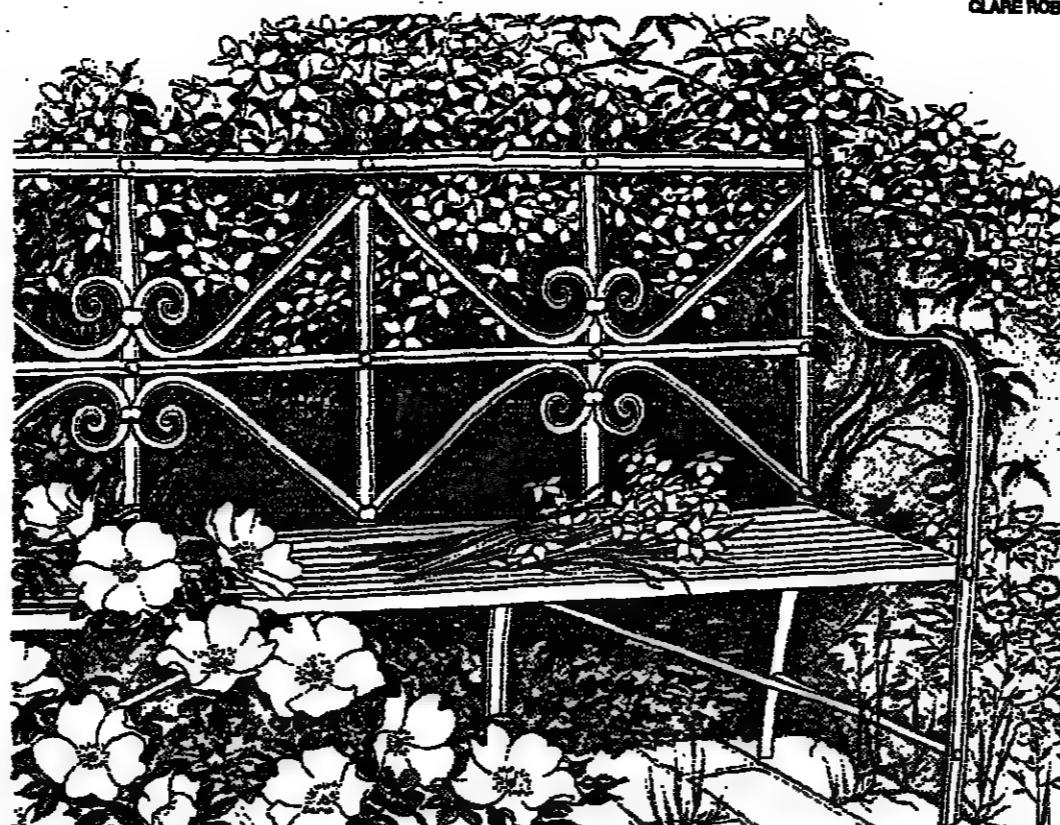
Other small weeds are dashing to spread themselves as fast as possible: speedwells, enchanter's nightshade, the daintily rosetted hairy borage which hitches a lift with container-grown plants and stays forever, flickering its seeds explosively throughout the flowerbed at the mere proximity of the careful gardener's hand. Meanwhile dandelions have bloomed as never before this year, and the grey-white lollipop seedheads of future trouble are populous not only in gardens but on adjacent land, roadsides and verges. Even if you cannot root up the plant, remove the seedheads without delay.

A determined session of weeding and trimming can usually restore the garden to an attractive brilliance, which will probably never be bettered during any other season. This year, plant life is so precocious that the special flowers of late spring are coinciding with

those of summer, such as meadow cranesbill and Welsh poppy. Among the most precious plants now blooming I value highly the Pheasant's Eye narcissus, with its paper-pale, thrown-back flower with the neat little trumpet of green-orange, and the most wonderful rich scent, which falls short of the slightly sickening heaviness of some of the showy modern narcissi. Even a small group of, say, half a dozen or so planted close together is well worth having in the garden.

The small native European gladiolus (*Gladiolus italicus*, sometimes called byzantinus) is now emerging from its heavily folded bud to reveal a complicated but brief-lived flower of intense pink. Irises, those other glorious, short-lived flowers of early summer, are also coming into bloom. They respond well to sunny conditions, perhaps worth increasing if warm weather persists.

The low-growing soapwort (*Saponaria ocymoides*) which has begun to be sold in garden centres now. Water-plants can be planted or put in position in ponds warmed up by the sun. Annuals of various kinds can be bought to fill gaps, though tender plants such as impatiens and geraniums (especially small, young specimens) should be acclimatized to outdoor conditions for a while, and not planted in their permanent posi-



Gathering flowers in May: clematis, Pheasant's Eye narcissi, incense roses and meadow cranesbill

(indeed, you have virtually to macerate a leaf to get that spicy, high-church fragrance) perfumes the air with no intervention when it is very hot. This makes good sense of growing it against a hot sunny wall.

There is a good range of plants of all kinds at nurseries and garden centres now. Water-plants can be planted or put in position in ponds warmed up by the sun. Annuals of various kinds can be bought to fill gaps, though tender plants such as impatiens and geraniums (especially small, young specimens)

ions until all danger of frost has passed.

Some plants which provided early display may need to be taken in hand now, straggly shoots of osmanthus or evergreen ceanothus may be pruned back as necessary after the flowers have faded. Kerria should have its flowering stems cut right back near ground level after the blooming fades, in order to encourage next year's flowering shoots (cutting all the shoots back is advised for the double form).

Honesty, which brightens the shade under trees, should be pulled out after flowering, except for those plants which you require for seed or winter seed-head display, otherwise next year's garden will be dominated by this friendly purple invader.

The same goes for hedge garlic and forget-me-nots, whose development should be arrested before they go over-generously to seed. There will be enough seed from plants you overlook to provide a show for next year.

The early clematis (*montana* group) is already in good flower.

Strictly speaking they do not require pruning but if they have tangled themselves into unruly knotwork, or beguiled conquer areas

you prefer unclimbed, stand by with the secateurs after flowering, when the long strands can safely be cut back and heeded.

Impatiens and geraniums (especially small, young specimens) should be acclimatized to outdoor conditions for a while, and not planted in their permanent posi-

tions until all danger of frost has passed.

Some plants which provided early display may need to be taken in hand now, straggly shoots of osmanthus or evergreen ceanothus may be pruned back as necessary after the flowers have faded. Kerria should have its flowering stems cut right back near ground level after the blooming fades, in order to encourage next year's flowering shoots (cutting all the shoots back is advised for the double form).

Honesty, which brightens the shade under trees, should be pulled out after flowering, except for those plants which you require for seed or winter seed-head display, otherwise next year's garden will be dominated by this friendly purple invader.

The same goes for hedge garlic and forget-me-nots, whose development should be arrested before they go over-generously to seed. There will be enough seed from plants you overlook to provide a show for next year.

The early clematis (*montana* group) is already in good flower.

Strictly speaking they do not require pruning but if they have tangled themselves into unruly knotwork, or beguiled conquer areas

you prefer unclimbed, stand by with the secateurs after flowering, when the long strands can safely be cut back and heeded.

Impatiens and geraniums (especially small, young specimens) should be acclimatized to outdoor conditions for a while, and not planted in their permanent posi-

tions until all danger of frost has passed.

Some plants which provided early display may need to be taken in hand now, straggly shoots of osmanthus or evergreen ceanothus may be pruned back as necessary after the flowers have faded. Kerria should have its flowering stems cut right back near ground level after the blooming fades, in order to encourage next year's flowering shoots (cutting all the shoots back is advised for the double form).

Honesty, which brightens the shade under trees, should be pulled out after flowering, except for those plants which you require for seed or winter seed-head display, otherwise next year's garden will be dominated by this friendly purple invader.

The same goes for hedge garlic and forget-me-nots, whose development should be arrested before they go over-generously to seed. There will be enough seed from plants you overlook to provide a show for next year.

The early clematis (*montana* group) is already in good flower.

Strictly speaking they do not require pruning but if they have tangled themselves into unruly knotwork, or beguiled conquer areas

you prefer unclimbed, stand by with the secateurs after flowering, when the long strands can safely be cut back and heeded.

Impatiens and geraniums (especially small, young specimens) should be acclimatized to outdoor conditions for a while, and not planted in their permanent posi-

Vintage Chelsea

The most famous flower show in the world takes place next week, in a year when the main problem for exhibitors has been not to bring things on but to hold them back; it should be a vintage event. There is a high proportion of women designers in the model garden section this year, and horticultural education is also well represented. Tickets are available through the Keith Prowse agency for the public days: Thursday May 23 (8am-8pm, £15 full day, £7 after 4pm) and Friday May 24 (8am-5pm, £12). Tickets may also be bought from Burton's Court, Royal Hospital Road, from now until the last day of the show (signed Chelsea Ticket Office). A special information line (071-748 1744) will be open during the show for latest ticket information and admission details.

RHS members can visit on Tuesday May 22 and Wednesday May 23, 8am-8pm both days, or purchase reduced-price tickets on the public days (£5, maximum two tickets), and may come to the show free at 4.30pm on Friday May 25 to buy plants from nursery exhibitors when the show closes at 5pm. Members should obtain tickets direct from Vincent Square. There will be a full report of the show in next week's column.

Other places of interest to visit in London during Chelsea Week include:

• The Museum of Garden History, St Mary-at-Lambeth (on the south bank just over Lambeth Bridge, opposite the Palace of Westminster). Ignore recent, inaccurate press noisings: the Museum of Garden History is open Mon-Fri 11am-3pm, Sun 10.30am-5pm.

• The early clematis (*montana* group) is already in good flower. Strictly speaking they do not require pruning but if they have tangled themselves into unruly knotwork, or beguiled conquer areas

you prefer unclimbed, stand by with the secateurs after flowering, when the long strands can safely be cut back and heeded.

The early clematis (*montana* group) is already in good flower.

Strictly speaking they do not require pruning but if they have tangled themselves into unruly knotwork, or beguiled conquer areas

you prefer unclimbed, stand by with the secateurs after flowering, when the long strands can safely be cut back and heeded.

The early clematis (*montana* group) is already in good flower.

Strictly speaking they do not require pruning but if they have tangled themselves into unruly knotwork, or beguiled conquer areas

you prefer unclimbed, stand by with the secateurs after flowering, when the long strands can safely be cut back and heeded.

The early clematis (*montana* group) is already in good flower.

Strictly speaking they do not require pruning but if they have tangled themselves into unruly knotwork, or beguiled conquer areas

you prefer unclimbed, stand by with the secateurs after flowering, when the long strands can safely be cut back and heeded.

The early clematis (*montana* group) is already in good flower.

Strictly speaking they do not require pruning but if they have tangled themselves into unruly knotwork, or beguiled conquer areas

you prefer unclimbed, stand by with the secateurs after flowering, when the long strands can safely be cut back and heeded.

The early clematis (*montana* group) is already in good flower.

Strictly speaking they do not require pruning but if they have tangled themselves into unruly knotwork, or beguiled conquer areas

you prefer unclimbed, stand by with the secateurs after flowering, when the long strands can safely be cut back and heeded.

The early clematis (*montana* group) is already in good flower.

Strictly speaking they do not require pruning but if they have tangled themselves into unruly knotwork, or beguiled conquer areas

you prefer unclimbed, stand by with the secateurs after flowering, when the long strands can safely be cut back and heeded.

The early clematis (*montana* group) is already in good flower.

Strictly speaking they do not require pruning but if they have tangled themselves into unruly knotwork, or beguiled conquer areas

you prefer unclimbed, stand by with the secateurs after flowering, when the long strands can safely be cut back and heeded.

The early clematis (*montana* group) is already in good flower.

Strictly speaking they do not require pruning but if they have tangled themselves into unruly knotwork, or beguiled conquer areas

you prefer unclimbed, stand by with the secateurs after flowering, when the long strands can safely be cut back and heeded.

The early clematis (*montana* group) is already in good flower.

Strictly speaking they do not require pruning but if they have tangled themselves into unruly knotwork, or beguiled conquer areas

you prefer unclimbed, stand by with the secateurs after flowering, when the long strands can safely be cut back and heeded.

The early clematis (*montana* group) is already in good flower.

Strictly speaking they do not require pruning but if they have tangled themselves into unruly knotwork, or beguiled conquer areas

you prefer unclimbed, stand by with the secateurs after flowering, when the long strands can safely be cut back and heeded.

The early clematis (*montana* group) is already in good flower.

Strictly speaking they do not require pruning but if they have tangled themselves into unruly knotwork, or beguiled conquer areas

you prefer unclimbed, stand by with the secateurs after flowering, when the long strands can safely be cut back and heeded.

The early clematis (*montana* group) is already in good flower.

Strictly speaking they do not require pruning but if they have tangled themselves into unruly knotwork, or beguiled conquer areas

you prefer unclimbed, stand by with the secateurs after flowering, when the long strands can safely be cut back and heeded.

WALK



Aldbury, Ivinghoe and the Grand Union Canal, Bucks and Herts 11 miles

THE Tring Gap has long provided a route through the Chiltern Hills to London, and this walk follows the Grand Union Canal as it heads into the gap.

Starting at Tring Station walk east leaving the Ridgeway Path beyond Westland farm, continuing straight on through fields and then right into Aldbury, a picture-postcard village. Walk through the village and turn left on to a green lane which weaves west to the wooded hills, where it rejoins the Ridgeway Path. Follow its waymarks in woodland, then across sheep-cropped downland with good views north-west and along Grimsdyke, probably Anglo-Saxon boundary earthworks. Before a deep coombe, Incombe Hole, leave the path and descend to Ivinghoe, diverting at the road to look at Pritstone Windmill of 1627.

Ivinghoe is a most attractive village, its large cruciform church has good chalkstone foliage capitals and excellent medieval roofs and pews. Walk through the village and opposite the Bell turn right on to a footpath that skirts behind housing and gardens, eventually reaching Pritstone. Here turn right on to Cheddington Road, and then before the railway right on to a footpath that leads to a swingbridge over the Grand Union Canal.

Here turn left and follow the canal and its locks south, leaving it past the timber-framed and thatched The Ship's Stores to visit Marsworth and its church. Continue west down the lane to rejoin the canal, turn left and walk along its towpath: passing Bulbourne and its canal workshops, eventually climbing out of the cutting back to Tring Station.

Martin Andrew

HOMES & GARDENS

Continued on next page

The Ideal Hose for the Ideal Home

"ingenious - yet so simple and practical. I wouldn't be without my Retracta!"
Cyril Fletcher

THE RETRACTA

The only fully Automatic Rewinding Hose/Reel
Includes wall mounting bracket
Use it free running off the reel, or set to lock at any length you want.
Then let the hose gently rewind itself - wet or dry - with no kinks or mess.

The Retracta swirls in the direction you are working, and folds flat against the wall when not in use. Padlock it, and leave it out in all weathers - or simply unlock the reel and store inside.

Permanently attached to your outside tap for easily removable.

The Retracta is constantly ready for use.

Orbit spray nozzle gives you total control of anywhere.

* Padlock not included.

NO MESS · NO KINKS · NO HAZARDS

YES!
The one you saw on TV!
Thousands of users find HYZYME the natural answer. HYZYME restores the natural balance helping bacteria breakdown solids and aid drainage without those awful smells. Keep your friends - send for HYZYME info pack TODAY!

HydraChem

Billinghurst W. Sussex Tel: (0403) 784332

£69.95

Available only from

Redashé

To receive Ltd Unit 11, Hemel Hempstead, HP1 1PP. Please send me a free colour brochure PO No _____ Order date my Anno V/V No _____ Name _____ Signature _____ Address _____ Postcode _____ Price £_____ £6.95 inc P&P. Please allow 4 weeks for delivery. Redashé Office Hours

MOWER CITY

GET OFF TO A FLYING START AND A CRACKING PRICE AT MOWER CITY



THE WEEK IN PREVIEW

THEATRE

In Arthur Miller's 75th birthday year, British productions of his work are legion, and among the most eagerly awaited is the Royal National Theatre's *The Crucible*, which begins previews this week. Tom Wilkinson plays John Proctor, the central character in this drama of witch-hunting and false accusations in 17th-century Salem, Massachusetts, directed by Howard Davies. Wilkinson, who has played the role before, but only in a university production "some years ago, now," said during a break in rehearsals this week: "Great plays have the quality of seeming to have been written yesterday, and this production undoubtedly has an extra resonance because of recent events in eastern Europe. I got to know Arthur Miller when I was in Ibsen's *An Enemy of the People* at the Young Vic and then the Playhouse, using his translation. I was eager to do this play, knowing it and having such respect for him. I had never worked with Howard Davies before, but we have a very cordial relationship so far, very enjoyable." Zoe Wanamaker, Clare Holman, Michael Bryant, David Burke and Oliver Cotton are also in the cast. Olivier, National Theatre, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 2253). Previews from Fri. Opens May 31. *Tony Patrick*

BURN THIS: Lanford Wilson's play. Robert Allan Ackerman directs John Malkovich, Lou Liberatore, Juliet Stevenson and Michael Simkins. Hampstead Theatre, Swiss Cottage Centre, London NW3 (071-722 9301). Previews from Wed. Opens May 29.

MUCH ADD ABOUT NOTHING: Start of the season, directed by Lindsay Posner, with Karl Johnson, Susan Tracy and Martin Clunes. Open Air Theatre, Regent's Park, London NW1 (071-486 2431). Previews from Fri. Opens May 28.

ORION AND THE GREAT BEAR: Bizarre-sounding play by Vivian Fongemi, directed and designed by John Vernon. Croydon Warehouse, Dingwall Road, East Croydon (081-880 4060). Opens Wed.

THE POWER AND THE GLORY: Graham Greene adaptation. Tim Luscombe directs Edward Petherbridge. Chichester Festival (0243 781328). Previews from Mon. Opens Wed.



Living it up: Adventures in Motion Pictures aboard *The Elizabethan* paddle-steamer — Keith Brazil, Matthew Bourne, Carrollynn Antom and Bill Eldridge

MA'S MUSIC: The outstanding cellist Yo Yo Ma plays sonatas by Rachmaninov and Brahms (the grim E minor one), Stravinsky's *Suite Italienne* and a Capriccio by the American William Bolcom. Barbican Centre, London EC2 (071-638 8891). Tomorrow.

INTERNATIONAL PERAHA: Continuing the International Piano Series, Murray Perahia, a marvellous player, performs Franck's Prelude, Chorale and Fugue, Schumann's Op 17 Fantasy, Liszt's Rhapsody and a Chopin group. Festival Hall, London SE1 (071-828 8800). Mon.

KOUT/MORK: The City of

CONCERTS

Birmingham Symphony Orchestra is conducted by Jiří Kout in Smetana's *Bartered Bride* Overture, Martínů's splendid Symphony No 6 and, with Truls Mørk as soloist, Dvořák's Cello Concerto. Town Hall, Birmingham (021 2363889). Tues.

MORNINGTON BEETHOVEN: Roger Norrington conducts The Philharmonia in an all-Beethoven programme. Festival Hall, Wed.

MISTS, DANCES: In a notable contribution to the Bohemian Festival, Malcolm Blinns brings

forward Janáček's *In the Mists*, Smetana's 10 Czech Dances, Dvořák's Variations Op 36 and Vojtěšek's Sonata Op 20 — a good cross-section of Czech piano music. Wigmore Hall, London W1 (071-933 2141). Thurs.

METOPES, MAZURKIS: In a programme slightly different from that originally advertised, Janina Fialkowska continues the Szymborski festival with his *Metopes*, Mazurkas Op 50 Nos 15 and 16, Scriabin's great Sonata No 5, Debussy's *Images* 1, Chopin's Mazurkas Op 41 and Scherzo No 4 — a richly rewarding programme. Purcell Room, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800). Fri.

Some of the biggest names in the musical world are giving their services for tomorrow's all-day extravaganza on the South Bank. Under the banner *Music for Life*, Graham Vick has brought together a staggering array of talent on behalf of Crusaid, the charity that raises money for the fight against Aids. The centrepieces are the evening's gala concert with Simon Rattle conducting songs from *Porgy and Bess* with members of the Glyndebourne cast, and the four-hour Musical Mystery Tour down the river, which will take in a Richard Jones staging of Monteverdi's *Il Combattimento*, a performance of Handel's *Dixit Dominus* in a stunning 18th-century setting, and a special presentation of Matthew Bourne's hit show *The Infernal Galop* — a satirical view of Parisian nightlife with dance company Adventures in Motion Pictures. Other celebrated participants include the Labéque Sisters, Evelyn Glennie, Michael Tilson Thomas, Fou Ts'ong, Barry Douglas, Sherrill Milnes, Felicity Lott, Anne Evans, John Tomlinson, David Wilson-Johnson, Yvonne Kenny, Rose English, Sheila Hancock, Dorothy Turn and Jeremy Irons. Songs have also been commissioned from Béatrice Lutoslawski, Maxwell Davies, Stephen Sondheim and Ravi Shankar. Box-office (071-928 8800). *Barry Millington*

JAZZ

NEWCASTLE JAZZ FESTIVAL: Opening up with the Stan Tracey Big Band (Sat May 26). The Playhouse, Newcastle (061 232 7079/8520). Sat-Sun Jun 3.

ROBIN EUBANKS/STEVE TURRINE QUINTET: Two trombones and the proficient neo-bop of Blue Note pianist Renée Rosnes. Ronnie Scott's Club, London W1 (071-439 0747), Mon-Sat.

TRIBUTE TO BENNY GOODMAN & CHARLIE CHRISTIAN: Fate Walker guitarist Al Caser teams up with the Dave Shepherd Quintet. Pizza Express, London W1 (071-439 8722). Fri.

PHOTOGRAPHY

20 DUTCH PHOTOGRAPHERS: The work of 20 photographers from PAN!, the Photographers' Association of the Netherlands, which was set up six months ago to promote the work of professional lensmen working in the fields of fashion, editorial and advertising. This exhibition was put together before PAN!'s formation by a selection panel including the British photographer, Brian Griffin, whose own work has a high international reputation. The Association Gallery, London EC1 (071-608 1445), Mon-Jun 1.



ROCK

BILLY JOEL: Underated piano man with another new set of tunes from his album *Storm Front*. Wembley Arena, Middlesex (081-900 1234). Mon, Tues.

LENNY KRAVITZ: Young charismatic dance-master whose soulful sound blends equal quantities of pop, rock and funk. Leeds Polytechnic (0532 430171) tomorrow; Birmingham Irish Centre (021 822 2314) Tues.

GEORGE STRAIT: Winner of the Texas Country Music Association entertainer of the year award. Dominion Theatre, London W1 (071-580 8882). Tomorrow.

RIPON CHARTER FESTIVAL: Celebration of granting of Ripon's charter in 886, with drama, recitals and exhibitions. Festival Trust, Ripon, North Yorkshire (0763 700681).

FESTIVALS

BATH INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL: Celebration of Spanish culture including Cumbre Flamenca, Hesperion early music ensemble and guitarist Paco Peña. Festival Office, Bath (0225 445851). From Fri.

CHIPPEHAM FOLK FESTIVAL: Nearly 200 events of folk music, song, dance, crafts, workshops and children's events. Festival Office, Bridge Centre, Chippenham (0249 657190). From Sat May 26.

MALVERN FESTIVAL: Cambridge Theatre Company presents *Mrs Warren's Profession*; Prunella Scales in Queen Victoria evening; G&S with ENO; and English music from Byrd to Fiozzi and Britten. Festival theatre, Malvern (0984 672725). From tomorrow.

NOTTINGHAM INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL: Highlights include Stephen Lowe's new musical, *Love in the Land of the Luddites*; Georgian State Dance Company; G&S with D'Oyle Carr. Box office, Victoria Centre, Nottingham (0602 418741). From Sat May 26.

RIPON CHARTER FESTIVAL: Celebration of granting of Ripon's charter in 886, with drama, recitals and exhibitions. Festival Trust, Ripon, North Yorkshire (0763 700681).

CINEMA

DREAMS (PG): Akira Kurosawa's latest epic — a richly rewarding semi-autobiographical fantasy. Lumière, London WC2 (071-838 0691). Screen on the Hill, London NW3 (071-435 3386). From Fri.

LOVERBOY (15): Blame comedy with Patrick Dempsey as a misfit pizza delivery boy. Cannon Oxford Street, London W1 (071-630 0310). From Fri.

HARLEM NIGHTS (15): Eddie Murphy in over his head as the writer-director-star of this tired tale set in a nightclub. Plaza, London SW1 (071-437 2344). From Fri.



Jim Henson, who died suddenly on Wednesday, did much to extend the boundaries of screen fantasy. His final film *The Witches* — a spirited adaptation of Roald Dahl's popular children's book — found him working in tandem with another extraordinary talent, Nicolas Roeg. Henson, the executive producer, provided the services of his Creature Shop — experts at the special effects essential for a tale of hideous witches planning to turn Britain's children into mice. The director Nicolas Roeg — encouraged by his young children's enthusiasm for the book — supplied his own strong imagination, particularly in the early Norwegian scenes. Once both parents of the young hero, Luke, have been killed in a car crash, the action shifts to England: Luke and his grandmother arrive at a grand seaside hotel just as the witches, disguised as the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, converge for a convention. Anjelica Huston (above), enjoying herself hugely, plays the chief witch; Mai Zetterling — returning briefly to acting after a 15-year absence — is the grandmother; while Luke is played by fresh-faced Jason Fisher. Cannon Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2 (071-836 6279), from Fri. Certificate PG. *Geff Brown*

BRIDGE

Zia Mahmood confirmed that he is the man for the big occasion when he won the Omar Sharif Individual in Atlantic City a week ago, collecting \$40,000 of the \$200,000 purse.

Individual tournaments have long been demode, but the Goren bridge travel and publishing organization sees them as a way to launch a kind of Pro circuit, avoiding the ethical problems that can arise with established partnerships. This could help restore interest in the top performers at a grass-roots level, at present at a low ebb because of continued bidding methods.

Rubber-bridge players as well as duplicate addicts will recognize in this auction a recurring situation.

North opened one spade. South bid 1NT and North raised to 3NT. West led the 10 of hearts and South played low from dummy, East following with the 2.

South won with the king and led a diamond, successfully finessing the jack. Four diamond tricks would be enough for game, so South continued with the ace of diamonds, on which East showed out. West held off the next diamond and South, short of entries, had to try the spades, but the 4-2 break left him with only eight tricks. When he gave up a spade the defenders cashed three hearts and the king of diamonds.

When Zia played the hand he too began by finessing the jack of diamonds, but then he continued with the queen. Had West taken this trick, Zia would have been home, so he ducked. Now Zia tested spades, gave up a spade trick, and got home for the loss of one spade and three heart tricks. The defenders had no fatal diamond to cash.

Per-Olof Sundelin of Stockholm, known to the bridge world as "P.O.", would earn his card if a Pro circuit ever came into being, but he was out of luck when he encountered Zia in this deal.

Dealer East. East-West vulnerable.

Opening lead 44

Sundelin, as North, and Zia, East, were in strong contention, and when the auction was over you would have bet that Sundelin had got the better of exchanges. This was because South, a Bermuda Bowl winner, Peter Pender, had elected to bid four spades when he might well have passed Sundelin's three spades, having already shown his hand. And he had chosen a good moment. With the ace of clubs well placed and the missing heart honours divided, Pender was due to make game for the loss of one heart, one club, and the ace of diamonds.

But on West's opening club lead, Zia, instead of putting up the ace as expected, inserted the queen. Pender had evidently taken his eye off the ball, for he played low, wrecking the contract.

This was perhaps the costliest inadvertence in the history of bridge. Sundelin finished third, collecting \$12,000. If Pender hadn't pulled the wrong card, he would have been first.

Albert Dorner

At the end of last month chess history was made when a chess computer defeated Anatoly Karpov in a game in Munich. Admittedly this was in a simultaneous display, where the former World Champion confronted 24 opponents at the same time. Nevertheless, this is the first time that a computer has ever beaten a human World Champion.

Although the machine in question is manufactured in Germany, the winning program was written by Professor Richard Lang, a British scientist who lives and works in Cheltenham. The problem in facing a top-class computer is its incredible number-crunching ability in terms of move calculation. Deep Thought, the great American mainframe, can visualize one million positions every second. However, humans can be encouraged by Arthur Koestler's calculation that even calculating at the rate of one million moves per second, it would take a computer 10³⁰ seconds to calculate a 25-move game perfectly in advance. Ever since our planetary system came into being, 4.5 billion years ago, no more than 10¹⁸ seconds have elapsed.

Moreover, Professor Nathan Divinsky, chess statistician and professor of mathematics at the University of British Columbia, has calculated that in order to publish all possible moves of all possible 25-move games in a series of books the size of *Batsford Chess Openings* (slightly smaller than a telephone directory), one would have to cover the surface of the globe and fill all free space

in every direction to the distance of the furthest known galaxy *many times* over before the task would be accomplished.

In the game which follows, Karpov outplays the machine and wins a piece. Nevertheless, Black's horde of pawns provided significant compensation which made the win for Karpov extremely difficult. On move 46 (see diagram), Karpov, perhaps frustrated by the machine's excellent defence, made an incautious move which permitted the computer to liberate, advance and ultimately promote its passed pawn.

White: Anatoly Karpov; Black: Mephisto Portoroze Computer. Munich, April 1990. Queen's Gambit, Slav Defence.

CHESS

White plays and wins.

Sundelin, as North, and Zia, East, were in strong contention, and when the auction was over you would have bet that Sundelin had got the better of exchanges. This was because South, a Bermuda Bowl winner, Peter Pender, had elected to bid four spades when he might well have passed Sundelin's three spades, having already shown his hand. And he had chosen a good moment. With the ace of clubs well placed and the missing heart honours divided, Pender was due to make game for the loss of one heart, one club, and the ace of diamonds.

But on West's opening club lead, Zia, instead of putting up the ace as expected, inserted the queen. Pender had evidently taken his eye off the ball, for he played low, wrecking the contract.

This was perhaps the costliest inadvertence in the history of bridge. Sundelin finished third, collecting \$12,000. If Pender hadn't pulled the wrong card, he would have been first.

Moreover, Professor Nathan Divinsky, chess statistician and professor of mathematics at the University of British Columbia, has calculated that in order to publish all possible moves of all possible 25-move games in a series of books the size of *Batsford Chess Openings* (slightly smaller than a telephone directory), one would have to cover the surface of the globe and fill all free space

CROSSWORD

CONCISE NO 2181

Prizes of the Collins Concise Dictionary will be given for the first two correct solutions opened on Thursday, May 24. Entries should be addressed to The Times Concise Crossword Competition, 1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN. The winners and solution will be announced on Saturday, May 26.

ACROSS

1 Moorish citadel (6)

4 Stage (4)

7 Church bell (3)

9 Lethargy (7)

10 Engaged (2,3)

11 Bilingual animal (7)

12 Underskirt (9)

16 Barren (3-10)

19 Hesitation (5)

20 Circular pond (7)

21 Wound fluid (3)

22 Wicked (4)

23 Academic fusspot (6)

24 Slang (5)

25 Dub (6)

26 Precipitous (5)

27 Draw (7)

28 Sightseer (7)

29 Like better (6)

30 Trailblazer (11)

31 Wincot (4)

32 Circular citizen (7)

33 Block (7)

34 One and only (6)

CRICKET

Cook seven runs short of 1,000 after another 100

By Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent

AFTER a rare splutter on Wednesday, the Jimmy Cook run machine was humming smoothly again yesterday. An unbeaten 117 against the New Zealanders was his third century in seven days and leaves him only seven short of 1,000 runs, in all cricket, this season.

In first-class games alone, Cook has made 567 runs at an average of 141.75 and, with a potential six further innings available this month, a change of weather is the most obvious danger to his hopes of completing 1,000 before the end of May.

The quiet, modest South African will have particularly enjoyed yesterday's innings. Like others from his country, Cook has had to maximize every opportunity of international opposition. Test cricket would have suited his style and temperament but, deprived even of the ambition, he is limited to the personal fulfilment of making runs in games such as this.

That he made only 31 on Wednesday was eye-catching mediocrity by the standards he has set himself. Somehow, one instinctively knew that he would not miss out again. He resumed on 51 yesterday and the century was completed in an atmosphere of utter inevitability. As ever, Cook was clinical, correct and composed. His timing was immaculate, especially when allowed his trademark shot through square leg. There

might be slightly different if they meet again.

Tavare delayed his declaration for five minutes after lunch, finally giving the touring side a demanding target of 322 in a minimum 59 overs. Scoring, early on, at only three an over, it looked beyond them but when the red-headed Hallett dismissed both openers, his first wickets in first-class cricket, Martin Crowe and Jones increased the tempo in the best sunshine of the day.

SUMMARY: First innings: 343 for 6 dec 9 J Tavare 156, R J Harder 106; M C Sodron 4 for 79.

Second Innings:

E J Cook not out 117

P M Robinson lbw b Sodron 5

J J E Hardy c Parsons b Milne 5

A N Hayhurst run out 5

H M Stansbie c Crowe b Priest 59

B D Cowdrey c Cook b Milne 59

Extras (6, nb 2) 8

Total (4 wkt. dec) 266

C J Tavare, R J Harder, J G Shawlow, J C Hallett and A N Jones did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-23, 2-34, 3-48, 4-142.

BOWLING: Milne 8-1-35-1; Sodron 18-3-49-1; Robinson 10-1-82-0; Priest 28-5-11-80; Jones 4-0-8-0; M D Cowdrey 8-1-16-0.

NEW ZEALANDERS: First innings: 278 for 3 dec (T J French 105, A H Jones 57 not out, M D Cowdrey 55 not out).

Second Innings:

T J French c Cook b Milne 30

A H Jones c Tavare b Robinson 53

M J Cowdrey c Cook b Milne 65

R J Harder not out 20

Extras (6, nb 2) 8

Total (4 wkt. dec) 266

A M Parsons, S A Thompson, M W Priest, M C Sodron and P M Robinson did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-37, 2-84, 3-174, 4-201.

Umpires: D J Constant and D R Shapland.

Meanwhile, Cook was cruising unassumingly to his centurypoint in 217 minutes. He hit 17 fours, most of them off his legs, where the New Zealanders persisted in attacking him. They can be forgiven only inasmuch that they would never have seen him bat before. After this, their line

was to be breached by a well-timed ball. When play resumed Hughes had Goldsmith caught low at short extra as he tried to drive.

First thing Lancashire, resuming at 81 for two, batted a further 80 minutes as they added 91 runs. Atherton and Fairbrother completed their second fifties in the match against bowlers who were unable to get any assistance from the pitch.

Atherton was run out at 141 by a good piece of work by Barnett.

Lancashire made a confident start before lunch when Barnett and Morris made 40 together from seven overs. Derriens, in particular, was unable to find any direction or control. When the two spinners joined the attack after the interval, both, initially, bowled too short and were forcibly driven or pulled by the batsmen.

The score was 64 when the pattern started to change with Barnett, Kuiper and Morris dismissed in succession, partly through their own mistakes. Barnett tried to whip Fenton away to the legside too soon against a ball Fenton had held back and Allott took a straightforward catch at midwicket.

Kuiper, on whom so much depended, was bowled by Atherton at 99 when he went back to cut a ball which went straight on. Morris, looking as if he would play the required big innings, reached a half century in 53 balls with nine fours, before he was out. He tried to sweep Fenton but only succeeded in playing the ball into his stumps and the game had swung towards Lancashire.

Adams drove and pulled both spinners consistently before Atherton drove and stroked away with his left-arm spin for the first time in the match. In his third over Hughes got one to straighten as Adams tried to turn him to the legside and he was leg-before.

Worse was to come for Derbyshire when Atherton bowled Roberts in the last over before

"We were staggered by the

decision," Davies said. "We have met residents to assure their fears about litter and parking but there seems to have been some misunderstanding standing by what we have three weeks to sort out."

"We are employing our own refuse teams, cater for 1,300 car park places inside the ground, and will be operating a six double-decker bus on a free park-and-ride scheme from a mile away for next Wednesday's Texaco International against New Zealand. I don't know what more we can do."

THE Leeds Cricket and Rugby Club, which owns Headingley, has three weeks to effect a compromise with the city council following the rejection of plans for a £4.4 million redevelopment of the main stand at the Test ground.

Unless agreement can be reached with the planning authority, the scheme will be put back at least a year and Alf Davies, the club's chief executive, said yesterday that costs could escalate to a prohibitive level in that time.

"We are employing our own refuse teams, cater for 1,300 car park places inside the ground, and will be operating a six double-decker bus on a free park-and-ride scheme from a mile away for next Wednesday's Texaco International against New Zealand. I don't know what more we can do."

SPORT IN BRIEF

Surfing blow

The only round of the world surfing championship to take place in Britain, at Fistral Beach, Newquay, Cornwall in August, is under threat after the withdrawal of the sponsor,

Boxer dizzy

Jeff Fenach, Australian super featherweight, was admitted to a Sydney hospital for observation and his world title contest with Juan Laporte, United States, for the WBC crown on May 26 postponed. He complained of dizziness, sore throat and ear infection.

Milk permit

The Crown Chafes professional cycling team, whose main sponsor can no longer guarantee backing, has paid the £1,630 registration fee to the world governing body, FICP, which will allow it to compete in the Milk Race starting on May 27.

AUTOSPORT
RACE LINE
0898
654314

F3000 & WORLD SPORTS CARS
19/20 MAY

REGULARLY UPDATED
with preview, all practice times,
race reports and results
from SILVERSTONE

25p per minute (cheap rate) 30p elsewhere

Dot-Up Service - British 1ST FR

TEXACO CRICKETLINE

COMPOSITE CRICKET SCORE

0898

168

111

TEXACO

CRICKET

RALPH CHISHOLM REPORTS TO CHAMPS

TRAVIS BRIDGE, Gloucestershire 147

K P Evans 4-35 and 192 (D G Hobson 60;

50; K P Evans 5-33), Nottinghamshire 218 (K P Evans 5-33 and 192; D G Hobson 60; Wicket Akram 6-26 and 5-4); Lancashire 222 (R Flint 60; D G Cork 4-95, E McCrory 4-89;

SHOKER

STORMSHAW MATCHROOM LEAGUE: W

Thorne (Eng) 4 D Taylor (4 Eng) 5-3.

THURSDAY MATCHROOM LEAGUE: W

Thorne (Eng) 4 D Taylor (4 Eng) 5-3.

THURSDAY MATCHROOM LEAGUE: W

Thorne (Eng) 4 D Taylor (4 Eng) 5-3.

THURSDAY MATCHROOM LEAGUE: W

Thorne (Eng) 4 D Taylor (4 Eng) 5-3.

THURSDAY MATCHROOM LEAGUE: W

Thorne (Eng) 4 D Taylor (4 Eng) 5-3.

THURSDAY MATCHROOM LEAGUE: W

Thorne (Eng) 4 D Taylor (4 Eng) 5-3.

THURSDAY MATCHROOM LEAGUE: W

Thorne (Eng) 4 D Taylor (4 Eng) 5-3.

THURSDAY MATCHROOM LEAGUE: W

Thorne (Eng) 4 D Taylor (4 Eng) 5-3.

THURSDAY MATCHROOM LEAGUE: W

Thorne (Eng) 4 D Taylor (4 Eng) 5-3.

THURSDAY MATCHROOM LEAGUE: W

Thorne (Eng) 4 D Taylor (4 Eng) 5-3.

THURSDAY MATCHROOM LEAGUE: W

Thorne (Eng) 4 D Taylor (4 Eng) 5-3.

THURSDAY MATCHROOM LEAGUE: W

Thorne (Eng) 4 D Taylor (4 Eng) 5-3.

THURSDAY MATCHROOM LEAGUE: W

Thorne (Eng) 4 D Taylor (4 Eng) 5-3.

THURSDAY MATCHROOM LEAGUE: W

Thorne (Eng) 4 D Taylor (4 Eng) 5-3.

THURSDAY MATCHROOM LEAGUE: W

Thorne (Eng) 4 D Taylor (4 Eng) 5-3.

THURSDAY MATCHROOM LEAGUE: W

Thorne (Eng) 4 D Taylor (4 Eng) 5-3.

THURSDAY MATCHROOM LEAGUE: W

Thorne (Eng) 4 D Taylor (4 Eng) 5-3.

THURSDAY MATCHROOM LEAGUE: W

Thorne (Eng) 4 D Taylor (4 Eng) 5-3.

THURSDAY MATCHROOM LEAGUE: W

Thorne (Eng) 4 D Taylor (4 Eng) 5-3.

THURSDAY MATCHROOM LEAGUE: W

Thorne (Eng) 4 D Taylor (4 Eng) 5-3.

THURSDAY MATCHROOM LEAGUE: W

Thorne (Eng) 4 D Taylor (4 Eng) 5-3.

THURSDAY MATCHROOM LEAGUE: W

Thorne (Eng) 4 D Taylor (4 Eng) 5-3.

THURSDAY MATCHROOM LEAGUE: W

Thorne (Eng) 4 D Taylor (4 Eng) 5-3.

THURSDAY MATCHROOM LEAGUE: W

Thorne (Eng) 4 D Taylor (4 Eng) 5-3.

THURSDAY MATCHROOM LEAGUE: W

Thorne (Eng) 4 D Taylor (4 Eng) 5-3.

THURSDAY MATCHROOM LEAGUE: W

Thorne (Eng) 4 D Taylor (4 Eng) 5-3.

THURSDAY MATCHROOM LEAGUE: W

Thorne (Eng) 4 D Taylor (4 Eng) 5-3.

THURSDAY MATCHROOM LEAGUE: W

Thorne (Eng) 4 D Taylor (4 Eng) 5-3.

THURSDAY MATCHROOM LEAGUE: W

Thorne (Eng) 4 D Taylor (4 Eng) 5-3.

THURSDAY MATCHROOM LEAGUE: W

Thorne (Eng) 4 D Taylor (4 Eng) 5-3.

THURSDAY MATCHROOM LEAGUE: W

Thorne (Eng) 4 D Taylor (4 Eng) 5-3.

THURSDAY MATCHROOM LEAGUE: W

Thorne (Eng) 4 D Taylor (4 Eng) 5-3.

THURSDAY MATCHROOM LEAGUE: W

England's most impressive referee intends to be a controlling figure in the World Cup finals

By Peter Ball

NO ONE who witnessed the performance of the American referee in the recent match between the Republic of Ireland and the Soviet Union in Dublin can look forward to the World Cup with equanimity. "I'm afraid the standard of refereeing in the World Cup could be scandalous," one Irish player said afterwards.

"Who knows what that ref would have been like if the boots were flying? The only referees who can cope when the boots are flying are the English, because they are used to a physical game."

Sometimes, as at Wembley on Thursday and Roker Park on Sunday, English referees can seem too used to physical games, virtually ignoring mayhem. There is no fear of that happening when George Courtney is around, as the contrast between events in the volatile atmosphere at St James' Park on Wednesday and the FA Cup final on Thursday illustrates.

While things at Wembley got out of hand, on Tyneside, Courtney showed he was in control from the start and not even the pitch invasion disturbed his easy authority. It was an impressive performance and there can be no fears about his choice as the English representative on the World Cup panel for the second successive time.

"I'm not frightened of taking on responsibility," he said. "I think I'm flexible. I'll share a joke with a player, which sometimes doesn't work and I fall flat on my face. There are varieties of approach, but there is one essential question: did he have control? You never see the top English referees lose control. Never."

He had his moments of controversy earlier in his career. In the 1980 FA Cup final, his decision to book, not send off, Willie Young, of Arsenal, for the so-called "professional" foul which denied Paul Allen a goal, was an important factor in the FA's advice that such fouls should be treated as sending-off offences.

Courtney did not take that advice to heart if his subsequent actions were anything to go by. He only booked Bruce Grobbelaar for scything down Gordon McQueen near the touchline as Manchester United broke free in the 1983 Milk Cup final.

He has come a long way, although he was always in the fast lane. In 1974, he enjoyed his first senior FA Cup match. It was at Old Trafford. "This is your cup final, isn't it son?" Tommy Docherty said.

There have been bigger occasions since, with three European finals, both domestic and in Mexico, the third place play-off between France and Belgium. "That was a beautiful game because there was no pressure, but it was one step away from the ultimate prize. I'm ambitious, I want to go to Italy and I'd prefer the final. I must be the only



Flag of convenience: Courtney runs the line at Rochdale as part of his preparation for the World Cup finals in Italy

Englishman who wants Bobby Robson to do well up to the semi-final and no further."

If Courtney fulfills that ambition, it at least would mean the final will be in good hands, for he is probably refereeing better than ever. His other ambition, "to be the first referee kept on to '65" may be less likely, but he clearly has several years left in him. The days when an assessor described him as "obliging" have passed. "I'm still as fit, but I use it better. I used to be knackered after 20 minutes. I was running around so much because I was so desperate to keep control."

A headmaster in a primary school in Spennymoor in his other life – one would be tempted to say in his spare time if he did not clearly devote as much energy to his refereeing as his refereeing commitments – his refereeing is magisterial in the best sense, his authority all the more imposing for being quietly exercised.

"It's all down to levels of acceptability, concocting ways of selling decisions to people," he said.

"I'm a salesman really. But perhaps because all the players have grown up knowing me, there is a mutual trust and respect which is a great help. The days of the old, authoritarian headmaster are gone anyway. You are much more of a democrat as a headmaster nowadays than they used to be."

That clearly fits Courtney's own preference, but players know better than to try to take advantage of his relaxed approach. He is a consummate professional, working, and training under the guidance of Kevin Archer, as hard on his refereeing as any full-time footballer, and he resents being described as an amateur.

"I'm a professional. I had prepared for the semi-final for months, and I'm a professional in my approach and attitude. I've taken

years and years shaping myself and my personality as a referee, with all the nights training and the nights given over to the other side of the job, the educational side, attending referee's society meetings and lectures. One-and-a-half hours on a Saturday is the fulfilment of hours of sweat."

The day we met, Courtney was on his way to Rochdale to run the line, FIFA requiring their World Cup squad to have five refreshers games as fitness before arrival in Italy. His third match in seven days was a stark contrast to the two previous games, the European Cup semi-final in Marseilles, followed by the Liverpool v Crystal Palace semi-final at Villa Park, but his preparation and professional approach was quite serious.

"In the last five years, the increasing pace and physical commitment in the game put a tremendous responsibility on the

referee in terms of preparing. Our fitness has to be without question.

"I'm talking at all levels now from European semi-finals to the fourth division in Marseilles, the pace was quite intimidating, the commitment at speed is incredible, which causes huge problems for officials in determining intent."

But Courtney insists that overall the game is easier to referee than it was when he began at the beginning of the seventies. "There are very few difficult players," he said, laughingly refusing to name them, "because the over-the-top merchants have gone."

The Wimbledon style is difficult in a way because the ball is in the air so much, and there are more arms being used in the game than ever before. But it makes for an exciting game. I don't care what systems are being used as long as I'm in control, and I enjoy refereeing teams like Wimbledon and Crystal Palace."

But Courtney insists that overall the game is easier to referee than it was when he began at the beginning of the seventies. "There are very few difficult players," he said, laughingly refusing to name them, "because the over-the-top merchants have gone."

The Wimbledon style is difficult in a way because the ball is in the air so much, and there are more arms being used in the game than ever before. But it makes for an exciting game. I don't care what systems are being used as long as I'm in control, and I enjoy refereeing teams like

A final to restore faith in finals

By Keith Blackmore

FOR those disappointed by the FA Cup final replay on Thursday, consolation may be at hand. The Leyland DAF Cup final, to be played at Wembley tomorrow, brings together the best team in the lower divisions of the Football League, Bristol Rovers, and the most attractive, Tranmere Rovers.

Both have enjoyed success this season. Bristol Rovers won the third division championship and Tranmere will be back at Wembley to play North County next Sunday in the final of the third division play-offs.

The final should provide the classic confrontation between a team which relies on organization and discipline and one which depends on flair and an often thrilling passing game.

Bristol Rovers are the disciplined ones, as their League record shows. They won 26 of their 46 matches, losing only five, none at home. They scored 71 goals but conceded only 35, the fewest in the division. Tranmere lost in 49, but were the leading scorers in the League with 86 goals on their way to fourth place.

Bristol Rovers' record was all the more remarkable for the fact that the club sold Martyn, the goalkeeper, and Pearce, the leading scorer, to Crystal Palace and Watford respectively in the middle of the season. Without them, the team lacks outstanding individuals but Yates, in central defence, and Mehew, in midfield, (just recovered from injury), are promising. In attack, Saunders has begun to fill the gap left by Penrice.

But the team's greatest strength will be on the sidelines. Gary Francis, their manager, pulls the strings with skill and imagination, never more so than at half-time. His tactical

adjustments changed the course

of many matches this season

and if Bristol Rovers reach the

interval in difficulties,

Tranmere had better be ready for a series of subtle changes.

For all that, Tranmere are the

more likely to quicken the pulse

of the neutral spectator. John King's team has two modes of operation: the grimly effective, used when a good result is necessary (as away wins against Bristol City and Leyton Orient demonstrated), and the flat-out attack (best exemplified by a late-season demolition of Northampton Town).

Since the Leyland DAF final

is the last fixture of their two

league fixtures, it may not be

too much to hope that we will be

treated to their most entertain-

ing game on Sunday.

They do not lack for individual

talent. Nixon is a reliable goal-

keeper, Mark Hughes is as

robust as his international

namesake and the best sweeper

in the lower divisions, McNab

is influential in midfield and Muir

and Malkin ever likely to score.

Above all, there is Jimmy

Harvey, the team's playmaker

and the best passer in the third

division. After mixed results in

the European Cup, the middle

of the season, Law feels, were

on Sunday at Wembley.

United have been waiting

United see ray of hope as final curtain closes

Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent, reviews the FA Cup Final replay

AS NIGHT fell on the season, so a ray of hope shone for Manchester United. The FA Cup triumph, their more optimistic supporters will believe, was not merely a belated compensation for the comparative emptiness over the preceding 10 months. It represents, perhaps, the dawn of a genuine challenge for the championship next season.

Denis Law, who naturally sees nothing but the sunniest horizon for his former club, recalls the day when he featured in their Wembley victory 27 years ago. United, who had needed to win their closing League fixture to be certain of avoiding relegation, were the underdogs then against Leicester City.

He scored, typically on the turn, United won 3-1 and they subsequently carried a surfeit of belief into the following season. They finished as the runners-up to Liverpool and went on to claim the title in 1965 and 1967 and, in 1968, the European Cup. The seeds of success, Law feels, were sown at Wembley.

United have been waiting

for £13-million, cannot even begin to be compared favourably to the team which included Best, Law and Charlton. Yet, as long as injury does not again disrupt Ferguson's designs, it could

be a long time before Ferguson's men resisted the temptation to retaliate and their quality eventually emerged during one of the most unappealing showpieces for many a year. They won the Cup on merit. Palace earned nothing but discredit for their wretched contribution.

United have never been settled. An expensive array of talent was shuffled not only from week to week but also from beginning to end of individual matches. Ince and Phelan, for instance, have been employed in a variety of positions and Hughes has been partnered in turn by McClain, Wallace, Robins and Martin, ever likely to score.

The present squad, bought for £13-million, cannot even begin to be compared favourably to the team which included Best, Law and Charlton. Yet, as long as injury does not again disrupt Ferguson's designs, it could

be a long time before Ferguson's men resisted the temptation to retaliate and their quality eventually emerged during one of the most unappealing showpieces for many a year. They won the Cup on merit. Palace earned nothing but discredit for their wretched contribution.

Coppell and his players will have time to contemplate the future over the next two weeks; they fly out to the West Indies for a two-week holiday today.

THE composition of the GFM Vassall Conference next season will not be finalized until May 29 when the Football Association hear an appeal by Dover Athletic, the Beamer Hones League champions, against their rejection because their Crabble Athletic Ground did not meet the necessary criteria.

If the appeal fails, the place

will go to Bath City, who came on to the offer of a seat at

Wembley for the FA Cup final.

Palace have said they will

retain Ian Wright, who came on

as a substitute and scored twice in the 3-3 draw on Saturday but they are bound to receive tempting offers for him.

Coppell said yesterday: "I was

hope to have more to count by August."

By then, Steve Coppell, the manager of Palace, is certain to have invested some of the profit

on new players to strengthen a squad which spent much of last season off relegation.

Palace have already joined

Rangers, of Scotland, and Arsenal in inquiring as to the availability of Mark Wright, of

Derby County and England.

Coppell is also interested in David Lingham, of Ipswich Town and John Dryer, of Luton Town. However, Gary O'Reilly, John Salako (who is to have talks with Metz, of

France), Perry Suckling, the reserve goalkeeper, and David Maddison, who has been given a free transfer, are all expected to part company with the club this summer.

Palace have said they will

retain Ian Wright, who came on

as a substitute and scored twice in the 3-3 draw on Saturday but they are bound to receive tempting

offers for him.

Coppell said yesterday: "I was

hope to have more to count by

August."

By Louise Taylor

right to not to play Ian Wright from the start. I have no regrets.

The players have had a marvellous season and it is enormously encouraging for the future."

right to not to play Ian Wright from the start. I have no regrets.

The players have had a marvellous season and it is enormously encouraging for the future."

right to not to play Ian Wright from the start. I have no regrets.

The players have had a marvellous season and it is enormously encouraging for the future."

right to not to play Ian Wright from the start. I have no regrets.

The players have had a marvellous season and it is enormously encouraging for the future."

right to not to play Ian Wright from the start. I have no regrets.

The players have had a marvellous season and it is enormously encouraging for the future."

right to not to play Ian Wright from the start. I have no regrets.

The players have had a marvellous season and it is enormously encouraging for the future."

right to not to play Ian Wright from the start. I have no regrets.

The players have had a marvellous season and it is enormously encouraging for the future."

right to not to play Ian Wright from the start. I have no regrets.

The players have had a marvellous season and it is enormously encouraging for the future."

right to not to play Ian Wright from the start. I have no regrets.

The players have had a marvellous season and it is enormously encouraging for the future."

right to not to play Ian Wright from the start. I have no regrets.

The players have had a marvellous season and it is enormously encouraging for the future."

right to not to play Ian Wright from the start. I have no regrets.

The players have had a marvellous season and it is enormously encouraging for the future."

right to not to play Ian Wright

After the fall, the rise of a new nation

Bucharest

ROMANIAN sport seems to have been left immune to the divisive forces of the elections, which take place tomorrow. Sport is a relatively conservative establishment and the profound changes taking place in the country after the revolution have created a state of unease among athletes and sport officials.

Only two former athletes, both Olympic champions, Lia Manoliu, the 1968 discus gold medal winner in Mexico City, and Doina Melinte, who won the 800 metres at Los Angeles in 1984, ran for parliament on the National Salvation Front list. Three other former athletes, Christian Gatu, Mircea Lucescu and Vasile Ianul, had to withdraw after a decree which banned members of the armed forces or the Interior Ministry from standing as candidates.

Paradoxically, the future of Romanian sport depends more on the outcome of the battle between the interim Sports Minister,

Mircea Angelescu, and the two military clubs from Bucharest, Steaua and Dinamo, than the result of the equally uncompromising electoral race.

"It is clear that in order to implement the new democratic structures in sport the two clubs must sever their links with the military establishments," Angelescu said. "They are fighting tooth and nail to retain their position and privileges but I think that their time is up."

This was the second time I had met the chain-smoking minister since the revolution. He was appointed to help Romanian sport regain its seat after decades of neglect and mismanagement. His achievements are considerable. He injected a new lease of life into the fledgeling federations, allowed the formation of ruling bodies in sports banned by communists, like golf, martial arts and bridge, and organized free elections while supporting the sacking of corrupt or incompetent administrators.

Romania, a country renowned for its sporting excellence, has been adjusting to life after the fall of the Ceausescu regime. Chris Thau, a Romanian journalist based in England, has returned to his homeland on the eve of the elections to see the changes that freedom has brought and what it holds for the future

"The economic reform still to come will change the face of sport in Romania," he said. "The change from centralized to market economy will lead to an upheaval. There will be many problems, countless clubs will go under. Working people will refuse to subsidize enterprise athletes any more. This could lead to the end of the so-called state professional. We are trying to prepare ourselves for this dramatic change."

"I have warned about this approaching crisis but my words have been badly received. After the

elections, whoever runs Romanian sport will have to deal with all these issues. So far we have tried to use the schools as the framework for the relaunch of Romanian sport. We have decided to reinstate sport in the primary schools. We have to teach children the pleasure of sport from an early age, otherwise we are going to lose them."

"We have been working on that together with the Education Ministry and we have just doubled the number of seats available at the PE Institute in Bucharest."

Of all ministerial decisions, the

crusade against the Steaua and Dinamo clubs has been the most controversial. The Ministry of the Interior seemed eager to accept a change in the way Dinamo was subsidized. Several weeks ago I saw a document signed by the Minister of the Interior in which he agreed to dispose of the assets, worth about 90 million lei (about £2.6 million), of the two Dinamo clubs in Bucharest and Brasov."

The position of the Bucharest club has changed since Angelescu was harshly criticized by several top athletes and coaches. The former Romanian football manager, Mircea Lucescu, a highly respected and influential coach with Dinamo Bucharest, was sharply critical of the ministerial approach which he said "could spell the end of top-class sport in Romania."

Ianul, the vice-president of the Dinamo club, said that three sections of the giant – club fencing, tennis and ice hockey – might have to be scrapped to save money. He

was equally critical of the ministerial decision to change the financing of military clubs.

The same line of attack was employed by Steaua, who used a battery of Olympic and world champions and record holders to demolish the ministerial assault on the position of the army establishment. "We have produced hundreds of world and Olympic champions, the flower of Romanian sport has been nurtured in our club," Nicolae Gavrilă, the commanding officer of Steaua Colonel, said.

But the Sports Minister is unrepentant. "They have to realize that life in Romania is changing."

"The opportunities for youngsters for having fun, entertainment and travelling abroad will increase dramatically. Sport will cease to become a way to social achievement and will have to be divided between an elite willing to sacrifice their life to achieve elusive goals and the mass sport. This is the end of communist sport as we knew it and there is no going back on that."

Welsh trio renounce their South Africa link

From Owen Jenkins
Windhoek, Namibia

THE Welsh touring party arrived here early yesterday morning, and were greeted by a welcoming committee of Namibia Rugby Union officials, cameramen and photographers.

The Welsh Office had warned the party before leaving Wales that Paul Thorburn, Mark Ring and Tony Clement might have to sign a declaration renouncing sporting links with South Africa following their participation in last season's SARB centenary celebrations. Upon arrival at Windhoek, they were asked aside and duly signed the form and the issue was soon forgotten.

This is the first visit by a major rugby nation since the British Isles played here in 1974. Stoffel Rocher, the manager of the Namibia Rugby Union, said: "It is with elation and expectation that we greet Wales. It is somewhat of a relief that they have eventually arrived."

Ron Waldron, the Welsh coach, said: "They see this as a very important visit by a national team. It is early days yet, but everything seems in order and we will soon knock down to things."

The squad will have its first training session this morning, before watching a local first division league match, refereed by Fred Howard, of the RFU. He will officiate at both internationals and the local refereeing union is making full use of his services.

He said: "It adds to the refereeing experience. Rugby is different throughout the world, but I won't be changing my style."

The party travels to the coast at Swakopmund tomorrow, where they will play their first match against an invitation XV

Apartheid pledge may be urged

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

THE French Rugby Federation, whose selectors meet tomorrow to choose the XV to play Namibia in Auchi on Thursday, are likely to encounter the same problems as Wales when their B team visits Namibia next month.

The Namibian Government, which wanted a form of declaration against apartheid from the two Welsh players, Paul Thorburn and Mark Ring, who visited South Africa last year, will presumably look for a similar statement from Jean-Pierre Gauet and Marc Constant. They are the two members of the French B party who were in the international side with Thorburn and Ring which helped celebrate the centenary of the South African Rugby Board.

The Romanians, meanwhile, were able to field most of their international XV in two games against the touring British Police, which have formed part of their preparations for the game in Auchi. The Police lost both games, in the first of which Dean Richards, the England No. 8, played competitive rugby for the first time since September.

Richards, who spent nearly all last season recovering from an operation to damaged shoulder ligaments, accompanied the police party as a guest but was forced to come on as a replacement for the last half-hour of the game against a Buchanan Select XV which included 13 internationals. Richards had no adverse reaction from his shoulder.

His club colleague at Leicester, John Liley, received his award on Thursday night from Tandem Computers as England's leading first-class points scorer. Liley, who goes to Argentina with England in July, scored 439 points during 1989-90, establishing a club record which included 18 tries. Eddie Saunders, the Rugby wing, received a similar award as the country's leading try-scorer.

For the third time in four years Askeans won the Tandem seven counties merit table, winning 11 of their 12 games.

TABLE TENNIS

Chen delights with galaxy of strokes to inspire England

From Richard Eaton, Aomori, Japan

CHEN Xinhua made an immaculate first appearance as England became strong contenders for a quarter-final place with a thumping 3-0 victory over Taiwan on the opening day of the inaugural world team cup here yesterday.

The former member of two world title winning Chinese teams, now based in Rothamsted, hardly put a foot wrong while winning the first match, 21-14, 21-10 against Chih Chin-long.

Indeed, Chen went right through his extensive repertoire without so much as a stumble: first producing subtly masked services behind which the dagger thrust of a forehand leapt out with a series of kills, then the parrying and weaving of a tightly meshed backspin defence, after that the occasional loop from half distance, and just before the end the unleashing of a sudden backhand counter hit.

Few have played with such

a variety of strokes as this. "It was a super debut – ideal," said Donald Parker, the England captain, a staunch supporter throughout all the controversy over Chen's selection. "He was in a different class."

Just how high that class really is may be better revealed tomorrow when England take on Swedish team containing the world champion, Jan-Ove Waldner. Today England play Canada, a team they know can beat, in a match they feel should put them into the last eight irrespective of the Swedish result.

This became almost certain after Alan Cooke defeated Chih Chin-Siu, twin brother of Chih Chin-long. Chin-Siu is a few minutes the younger, but perhaps the odd point or two better and Cooke needed to work hard against an opponent who fiddled away close to the table with a left-handed chopsticks grip, using cushioning blocks.

When Cooke won 21-11, 17-21, 21-18, England were two up and the tension left the contest. Cooke reappeared to pair with Desmond Douglas and win the doubles, and Chen was not needed to play again.

Instead we were left to reflect on how relaxed this new man managed to appear, despite a disconcerting few weeks preparation for him and problems in the past three days with sleeplessness and stomach pains.

"Being in England team very different from Chinese team," Chen said. "More relaxed. Chinese make it hard for me here – in the head. This suits me better."

How much better English attitudes will suit him is a fascinating question. On yesterday's evidence Chen has enough ability to lift England from a good team to a dangerous one. The evidence of tomorrow will be eagerly awaited.



England expect: Chen Xinhua winning his first match for England in Japan yesterday

BOXING

Opponent change for Lewis

LENNOX Lewis, Britain's exciting young world heavyweight title hope, has yet another new opponent for his appearance at Sheffield City Hall on tomorrow night. He will now meet Dan "The Business Man" Murphy, from Nebraska.

According to Frank Malone, Lewis's manager, heavyweights just don't want to know. Three Americans, Mike Cohen, Phil Brown and Alonso Ruffini, promised to come to Sheffield but soon pulled out.

"Lewis is getting a fearsome reputation," Malone said. "It's a real problem getting opponents for Lennox. No one wants to come and fight him, or if they do they start talking telephone number purses. This fight has cost well over the odds but it had to be done to keep Lennox active and let the public see him in action."

The Olympic champion is unbeaten as a professional. All his 10 contests have ended inside the distance.

Murphy, described by Malone as a "giant," has won 27 of his 32 bouts, 19 with knockouts.

Goméz enjoys relaxed stroll

From Richard Evans, Rome

LIFE tends to come a little easily to some as naturally talented as Andrés Goméz. Not, however, quite as easily as the victory the big left-hander from Ecuador enjoyed over Omar Camporese, in the Italian Open here yesterday.

On a day of cloudless skies at the Foro Italico, Goméz strolled into the semi-finals, 6-1, 6-2 in just 59 minutes and the disappointed crowd had nothing to do except improve their suntans and accept the difference in class

Kruger shows spirit in toppling top seed

BOTH the men's and women's top seeds were beaten in the semi-finals of the Hi-Tec Satellite tournament at Bournemouth yesterday.

In the first of the men's singles semi-finals, Vaclav Roubicek, of Czechoslovakia, who won the Swanson tournament last week, beat Oliver Fuchs, of Austria, the top seed, 6-3, 8-6. Joanne Kruger, aged 16, of South Africa, defeated Kirtly Sharpe, the top seeded Australian left-

hander, 6-7, 7-6, 6-4 in the opening women's semi-final on the centre court.

Having lost the first set and dropped her service to trail 3-4 in the second, Kruger showed great potential and fighting spirit in rallying to take control.

Goméz, who has already won ATP Tour titles in Barcelona and Madrid this year, won

Graf rides out early pressure

From Barry Wood
West Berlin

STEFFI Graf came under early pressure from Leila Meskhi of the Soviet Union before reaching the semi-finals at the Lufthansa Cup yesterday.

Graf won 6-4, 6-1, but looked uncomfortable as Meskhi constantly hit the ball deep and sent backhand passes down the line.

But the Russian could not maintain her accuracy and Graf eventually took the upper hand.

The top seed then meets another Soviet, Natasja Zvereva, who defeated Judith Wienzer, of Austria, 6-7, 6-0, 6-4.

Zvereva responded to her first loss with vengeance. Looking sharp, she sent winners down the line in the manner of her compatriot and produced a number of winning shots.

Sandra Cecchini followed up her victory over Gabriela Sabatini by defeating Nathalie Tauziat 7-6, 6-3.

RESULTS: Men's singles: Semi-final: V Roubicek (Cze) v O Fuchs (Aust), 6-3, 8-6; X Alami (Mor) bt H Choue (Arg), 6-2, 6-5; J Kruger (S Afr) bt K Shimpel (Aust), 6-7, 8-6, 6-4; A Barzon (It) bt P Sorenson (Den), 6-4, 6-2, 6-4.

Women's: Semi-final: N Zvereva (Sov) bt L. Meskhi (USSR), 6-7, 6-0, 6-4; S Cecchini (It) v N Tauziat (Fra), 7-6, 6-3.

RESULTS: Doubles: N Zvereva (Sov) v S Gómez (Mex) (6-1, 6-2); G Pearce-Roman (Eng) v G McNamee (Eng) (6-2, 6-2); G Pearce-Roman (Eng) v S Gómez (Mex) (6-2, 6-2).

RESULTS: Mixed: N Zvereva (Sov) v S Gómez (Mex) (6-1, 6-2); G Pearce-Roman (Eng) v S Gómez (Mex) (6-2, 6-2).

RESULTS: Team: Spain (6-1, 6-2, 6-4) bt France (2-6, 2-6, 6-4); Italy (6-1, 6-2, 6-4) bt Switzerland (2-6, 2-6, 6-4); France (6-1, 6-2, 6-4) bt Spain (2-6, 2-6, 6-4); Italy (6-1, 6-2, 6-4) bt Switzerland (2-6, 2-6, 6-4).

RESULTS: Team: Spain (6-1, 6-2, 6-4) bt France (2-6, 2-6, 6-4); Italy (6-1, 6-2, 6-4) bt Switzerland (2-6, 2-6, 6-4); France (6-1, 6-2, 6-4) bt Spain (2-6, 2-6, 6-4); Italy (6-1, 6-2, 6-4) bt Switzerland (2-6, 2-6, 6-4).

RESULTS: Team: Spain (6-1, 6-2, 6-4) bt France (2-6, 2-6, 6-4); Italy (6-1, 6-2, 6-4) bt Switzerland (2-6, 2-6, 6-4); France (6-1, 6-2, 6-4) bt Spain (2-6, 2-6, 6-4); Italy (6-1, 6-2, 6-4) bt Switzerland (2-6, 2-6, 6-4).

RESULTS: Team: Spain (6-1, 6-2, 6-4) bt France (2-6, 2-6, 6-4); Italy (6-1, 6-2, 6-4) bt Switzerland (2-6, 2-6, 6-4); France (6-1, 6-2, 6-4) bt Spain (2-6, 2-6, 6-4); Italy (6-1, 6-2, 6-4) bt Switzerland (2-6, 2-6, 6-4).

RESULTS: Team: Spain (6-1, 6-2, 6-4) bt France (2-6, 2-6, 6-4); Italy (6-1, 6-2, 6-4) bt Switzerland (2-6, 2-6, 6-4); France (6-1, 6-2, 6-4) bt Spain (2-6, 2-6, 6-4); Italy (6-1, 6-2, 6-4) bt Switzerland (2-6, 2-6, 6-4).

RESULTS: Team: Spain (6-1, 6-2, 6-4) bt France (2-6, 2-6, 6-4); Italy (6-1, 6-2, 6-4) bt Switzerland (2-6, 2-6, 6-4); France (6-1, 6-2, 6-4) bt Spain (2-6, 2-6, 6-4); Italy (6-1, 6-2, 6-4) bt Switzerland (2-6, 2-6, 6-4).

RESULTS: Team: Spain (6-1, 6-2, 6-4) bt France (2-6, 2-6, 6-4); Italy (6-1, 6-2, 6-4) bt Switzerland (2-6, 2-6, 6-4); France (6-1, 6-2, 6-4) bt Spain (2-6, 2-6, 6-4); Italy (6-1, 6-2, 6-4) bt Switzerland (2-6, 2-6, 6-4).

RESULTS: Team: Spain (6-1, 6-2, 6-4) bt France (2-6, 2-6, 6-4); Italy (6-1, 6-2, 6-4) bt Switzerland (2-6, 2-6, 6-4); France (6-1, 6-2, 6-4) bt Spain (2-6, 2-6, 6-4); Italy (6-1, 6-2, 6-4) bt Switzerland (2-6, 2-6, 6-4).

RESULTS: Team: Spain (6-1, 6-2, 6-4) bt France (2-6, 2-6, 6-4); Italy (6-1, 6-2, 6-4) bt Switzerland (2-6, 2-6, 6-4); France (6-1, 6-2, 6-4) bt Spain (2-6, 2-6, 6-4); Italy (6

Jenkin

ock, Namibia

touring party at

yesterday; mem-

ber of the

Union office

and photograph

er's Office had been

for leaving with

Mark the

leisure; might have

with South Africa

their participation in

SAF's Conference

Upon arrival at

they were as

signed the first

issue was sou-

the first visit by a

nation since the

played here in 1972

the manager of

Rugby Union

what of a role he

eventually played

in them. They

they see the sit-

it is early days in

soon knocke

had will have in the

session this morni-

aching a local re-

throughout the day

not be enough to

my travels to the

Spartan Games

by Paul Powell

Correspondent

and I am

the 1972

I am

the 1972

HOLIDAYS & VILLAS

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

EuroSites

SELF DRIVE CAMPING HOLIDAYS

LATE AVAILABILITY

IN FRANCE AND SPAIN

NORMANDY - PICARDY - BRITTANY - LOIRE -
VENDÉE - SOUTH WEST FRANCE - DORDOGNE -
AUVERGNE - GORGES - ROUSSILLON - LANGUEDOC -
CÔTE D'AZUR - COSTA BRAVA

Depart	Ferry Route	UP TO 7nts.	6 PAX
28 May	Ramsgate-Dunkirk	6/7 nts	£299
30 May	Ramsgate-Dunkirk	299	£169
30 May	Plymouth-Caen	£164	£234
30 May	Plymouth-Roscoff	£164	£234
31 May	Plymouth-Roscoff	11/13 nts	£234
31 June	Plymouth-St Malo	£164	£234
31 June	Ramsgate-Dunkirk	£104	£174
31 June	Plymouth-Caen	£169	£239
3 June	Plymouth-St Malo	10/11 nts	£234
6 June	Plymouth-Roscoff	11/13 nts	£234
6 June	Plymouth-Roscoff	£164	£234
6 June	Ramsgate-Dunkirk	£99	£169
7 June	Plymouth-Caen	£164	£234
7 June	Plymouth-Roscoff	6 nts	£164
7 June	Plymouth-Roscoff	10 nts	£248
7 June	Plymouth-St Malo	£179	-
10 June	Plymouth-Caen	13/14 nts	£234
12 June	Plymouth-St Malo	10/11 nts	£234
12 June	Plymouth-Roscoff	12/13 nts	£234
13 June	Plymouth-Caen	13/14 nts	£249
13 June	Plymouth-Roscoff	7/8 nts	£269
13 June	Plymouth-St Malo	9/10 nts	£284
13 June	Ramsgate-Dunkirk	£299	£364
13 June	Plymouth-Caen	17/18 nts	£364
14 June	Ramsgate-Dunkirk	£364	£379
17 June	Plymouth-Caen	£364	£379
17 June	Plymouth-Roscoff	£364	£379
18 June	Plymouth-St Malo	19/20 nts	£379
21-28 June	Plymouth-Roscoff	14/15 nts	£379
21 June	Plymouth-St Malo	11/12 nts	£364
22 June	Plymouth-Roscoff	-	£364
27 June	Plymouth-St Malo	-	£364
27 June	Plymouth-Roscoff	-	£364

Choose from many sites throughout France and Spain.

All prices include accommodation and ferry crossing for you, your car and are fully inclusive for up to 6 people (insurance extra)

Telephone 0706-830888 NOW!!!

9 am-6 pm weekdays

9 am-6 pm weekends/bank hols

ABTA 47084

All holidays subject to availability.

TRAILFINDERS THE TRAVEL EXPERTS

AUSTRALASIA AND AROUND THE WORLD

Trailfinders offer more low cost flights and stopovers to more destinations than anyone. Experts in air fares since 1970 we can tailor-make your itinerary with up to 55% discounts on Hotels and Carhire - Worldwide.

SOME CURRENT BEST BUYS

ONE WAY	RETURN	ONE WAY	RETURN
Sydney	£299	Nairobi	£276
Perth	£699	Johannesburg	£267
AUCKLAND	£699	Singapore	£267
BANGKOK	£265	London	£302
HONG KONG	£265	Mexico City	£350
SINGAPORE	£265	Los Angeles	£443
BALI	£297	Toronto	£443
BEIJING	£275	Paris	£425
DELHI/BOMBAY	£250	Edinburgh	£425
KATHMANDU	£222	San Francisco	£425
CARIO	£176	Los Angeles	£490
CAIRO	£269	Toronto	£490
MAURITIUS	£261	Geneva	£490

CALL FOR YOUR FREE COPY OF THE TRAILFINDER MAGAZINE

Longhaul flights 071-938 3266 Transatlantic and European 071-937 5400 First and Business Class 071-938 3444 Open Monday-Saturday 9am-6pm Thursday 9am-7pm Sunday 10am-2pm (telephones only)

TRAILFINDERS LTD, 42-50 Earls Court Road, London W8 6JL Fully licensed and government bonded ATOL 1458 IATA ABTA 69701

QUARTERMAINE TRAVEL LIMITED

ROCKFORD FOR WORLDWIDE TRAVEL

LOW-COST FLIGHTS & TAILOR MADE ITINERARIES

AROUND THE WORLD

London - Delhi - Bangkok -
Sydney - Fiji - Honolulu -
Vancouver - London -
Paris - Rome - Tokyo -
Shanghai - Perth -
Sydney - Tokyo -
Los Angeles - London -
£1000

INTER-AIR

071 439 6633

INTER-AIR EXCLUSIVELY LISTED AT 071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439 6633

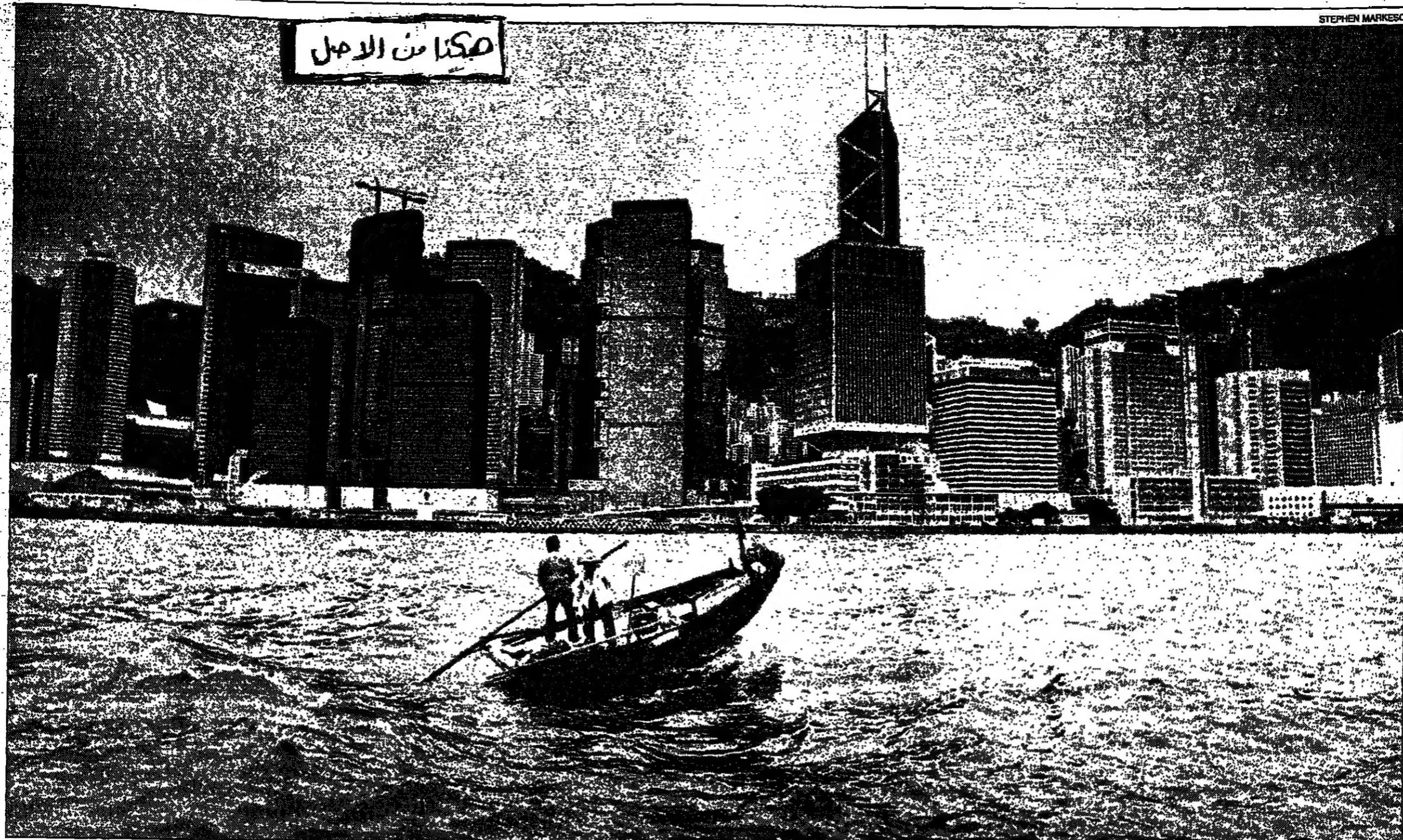
071 439 6633

071 439 6633

071 439

TRAVEL

STEPHEN MARKSON



Out of the past: a fishing junk bobs by the mirrored facades of the money-making machines of Central District as Hong Kong waits for integration with China in 1997. Some residents are hopeful, some fearful; most try not to think ahead

Spinning towards the unknown

In the last of our Great Cities series, Travel Editor Shona Crawford Poole reports on the high-density, high-intensity life of Hong Kong

ness of mushrooms on every horizon, Hong Kong retains its raffish écrin.

The New Territories are where most of the high-rise housing is going up fastest, its construction accelerated by completion of the efficient Mass Transit Railway system. In Mrs Chan's tiny kitchen 30 floors up in one of the public housing schemes that provides homes for nearly half of Hong Kong's population, a candle burned in tiny Buddhist shrine crammed between larder and ironing board.

Eating out, often in large groups, is another Chinese obsession indulged in by everyone who can afford to. A contributory reason for these public family meals is the formidable cost of housing in this land-starved community. A garden is an almost unthinkable luxury even for those who have made it and live on the Peak, as Hong Kong Island's poshest residential district is known.

The New Territories are where most of the high-rise housing is going up fastest, its construction accelerated by completion of the efficient Mass Transit Railway system. In Mrs Chan's tiny kitchen 30 floors up in one of the public housing schemes that provides homes for nearly half of Hong Kong's population, a candle burned in tiny Buddhist shrine crammed between larder and ironing board.

At nursery school they were already learning English, the passport in these parts to well paid employment. But as anyone using the city's shops and hotels will quickly hear, a form of English is developing which is a Hong Kong patois that is an increasingly long way from what, if I may call it, that is the real thing.

The New Territories used to be where people went to see a landscape of duck ponds and fish farms. There is not much of that left now, and Hong Kong's other islands, Lantau, Cheung Chau and, until the planes start arriving, Lantau, are the weekend retreats of the haves — those, that is, who do not get right away from it all to the casinos of Macau. Take a ferry. It costs less than excursion boats, and offers neither loud-spoken commentary nor fizzy drink.

Hong Kong does not grow on people. It is not a take-it-or-leave-it place. An irrevocable decision, to delight in the city or detest it, is generally made on the briefest of first acquaintance.

This may be because there is no way of sneaking up on Hong Kong, of getting in at the shallow end. Whether you arrive by rail via China, drop through the clouds at rooftop height, or sail in out of the sunset, arriving involves a face-to-face encounter with Hong Kong harbour which is a dig in anyone's emotional ribs.

On sunny mornings when a breeze puts a chop in the water, bursts of ancient design dip crazily about their business, slicing close to venerable Star Ferries, amphibious for endlessly repeated voyages between Kowloon Peninsula and Hong Kong Island.

On soggy days when the sky hangs low, the city shines in the narrow gap between water and vapour like a promising seam of ore. Swags of cloud slide past their own reflections on cliffs of mirrored curtain walling, behind which the money-making machines of Central District hum and whirr.

At night Hong Kong shimmers with a high-intensity glitter. A million lights bounce off hard surfaces, multiplied by water, by diamonds, by eyes shining in anticipation of a lucky wager, a good dinner, cold beer, love, laughter, and the excitement of

octogenarian leader Deng Xiaoping. Look what has happened in Europe. Why not China?

In the meantime, until the recently announced new airport on neighbouring Lantau Island opens for business in 1997, pilots will continue to rely on the mark-one human eyeball to steer the world's big jets low over Kowloon's rooftops to land, where no computer system can yet put them safely, on Kai Tak's runway in the middle of Hong Kong harbour.

In the meantime inhibited Chinese fuelled on brandy let their hair down in Karaoke lounges, performing lustily to sing-along videos which are the latest craze imported from Japan.

In the meantime white women, who are of course pink, but are always called European, try to ignore their shining noses and perspiration patches and how exasperatingly well their Oriental sisters keep both face and figure into coolly elegant old age.

In the meantime the accents of the almost too smoothly pin-striped young city types are

increasingly Harrow where once they were Harrow.

And in the meantime, despite a proliferation of air-conditioned shopping malls riddled with Armani, Ashley et al., despite ever more of the climatised high-level walkways which segregate the very well dressed from the less so at street level, and despite skyscraping towers of offices and flats appearing with the sudden-

(5-891 2555), came to about £75 a head. But good food need not be costly in Hong Kong. The dim sum café without English menus offers inexpensive eating to those willing to point at what they want it comes round on trolleys. And in Yang Kee at 32-40 Wellington Street, Central (5-231562) the carry-in diner can eat and drink well for £10 a head. Its soups and vegetables come in for praise.

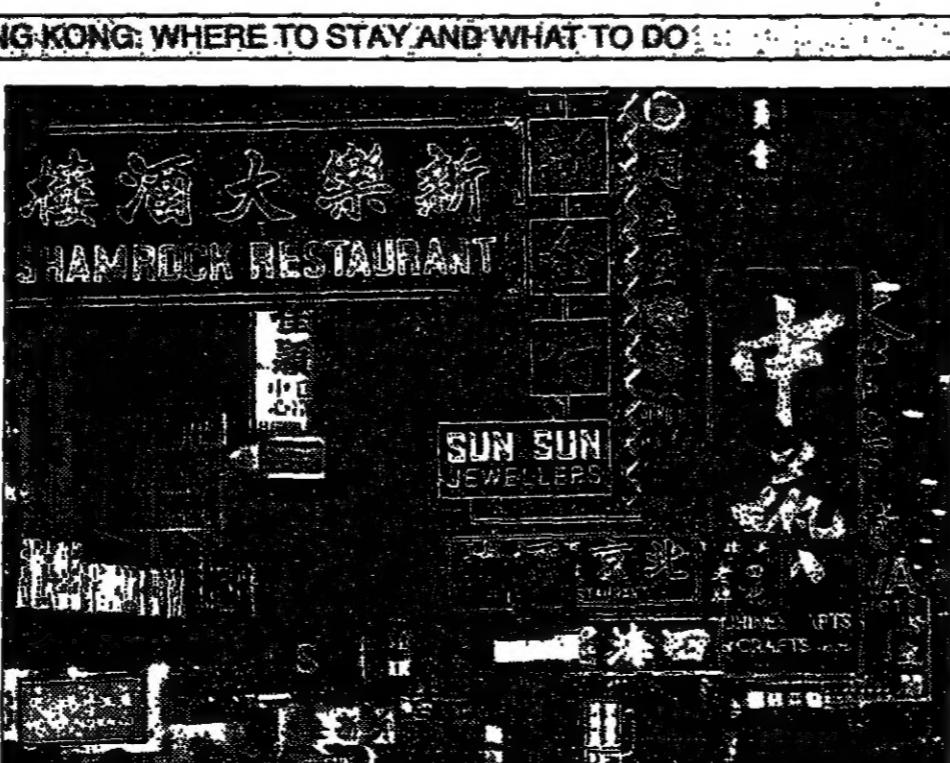
European food is readily available in the hotels, and the Mandarin Oriental's new shop selling bread and patisserie does a roaring trade with the expatriate population. The hotel's French restaurant, the Plirot, is serious and luxurious, although at the last visit there was a disappointing flavour of Swiss hotel school gravy creeping into the sauces. Night life: Much of Hong Kong's night life is the showy, private sort. Diamonds sparkle on pretty necks in Rolls-Royces speeding past to gatherings the visitor will have no inkling of. Some of this show goes public at cultural events, which tend in this last outpost of empire to bring visiting performances by world-class artists.

Evening horse racing with the glitterati at Happy Valley or Sha Tin is an event well worth witnessing. If you lack contacts to provide an invitation, the Hong Kong Turf Association offers tours with dinner.

Topless bars and hostess nightclubs are not hard to find. Live bands to dance to play in popular hotel nightclubs — the Pink Giraffe at the Sheraton (5-691111) and the Eagle's Nest at the Hilton (5-233111).

The Poor Man's Nightclub, an open air market with food stalls, operates every evening at the Macau Ferry Pier, Western District, Hong Kong, and is of course free, unless your pocket is picked.

• The dialling code for Hong Kong is 010 852.



Night lights: after dark the city streets are festooned with blinking neon

Accommodation: Why stay anywhere that lacks harbour views if you can pick a hotel that has them? Another decision is whether to use Hong Kong Island or Kowloon as a base. Those with business in the financial district will favour Central district, on the island; obsessive shoppers may prefer Kowloon. Most hotels automatically add a service charge to their rates as well as a 5 per cent government tax.

I am a creature of habit, and remain true to the Mandarin Oriental Hotel, 5 Connaught Road, Central, GPO Box 2623, Hong Kong (1-522 0111). Suites from £250 a night. Doubles from £120. This hotel fosters the Mandarin Oriental for Hong Kong's top ratings in surveys.

The Regent, Salisbury Road, Tsimshatsui, Kowloon (3-721 1211). Suites from £183 a night. Doubles from £120. This hotel fosters the Mandarin Oriental for Hong Kong's top ratings in surveys.

The Peninsula, Salisbury Road, Tsimshatsui, Kowloon (3-666251). Suites from £310. Doubles from £165. A colonial style hotel in the grand tradition. The lobby's popularity for tea is so great

If it is unusual or a private address, is a useful service performed by hotel staff.

Tourist tickets for the Mass Transit Railway cost about £1.50. Avoid the rush hour.

What to see: The 4.5 nights that an average visitor from Britain spends in Hong Kong is not long enough to have good clothes made. A survey found that most people wished they had stayed a week or more, which is. The figures are quoted by the formidable Hong Kong Tourist Association, which produces showers of free information and excellent full and half-day tours under its own label. The newest of these are "Home Visits" to high-rise housing developments in the New Territories. More conventional

tours take in tombs, old villages and temples.

Flagstaff House Museum: Tea Ware is a place of pilgrimage on my visits to Hong Kong, and a pool of serenity. The collection is housed in the oldest domestic building still standing, the former headquarters of the Commander of the British Forces, built in 1844. It is at Cotton Tree Drive, Central (5-299390). Expect to pay about £25 for two.

For Human cooking, the in thing, ignore if you can the oily pads on the carpet of the Human Garden and eat lamb's paws, superbly braised meat falling off unrecognizable bones, and the hot chicken with chilli. At The Forum, Exchange Square, Central (5-868 2880). Expect to pay about £25 for two.

It is very easy to run up huge restaurant bills in Hong Kong. Choosing a place with flashy décor is one way, choosing dishes with mightily expensive ingredients is another. Watch out for such traditional Cantonese delicacies as shark's fin, abalone, fish maw, goose webs and fresh garoupa. All these for three at the Forum Restaurant, 465 Lockhart Road, Causeway Bay



For gourmets and lazy days it's got to be Jersey

Good food, good wine, good times — it's all happening in Jersey, the holiday island that's got something for everyone.

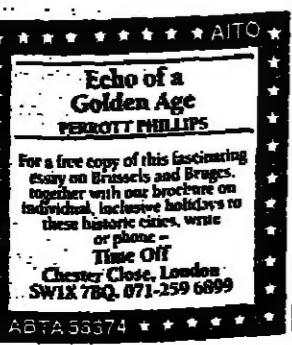
Simply sunbathe, or explore the delightful countryside, the beaches and bay, the museums and monuments, the leafy lanes. And when you've worked up an appetite, enjoy eating out at some of the finest restaurants you'll find anywhere.

Ask your travel agent, phone 081-200 0200 (24 hour personal service), or send the coupon to Dept 155, Jersey tourism, Weighbridge, St. Helier, Jersey, CI.

Jersey

Nearer to France, closer to home

Name _____
Address _____
Postcode _____



Echo of a
Golden Age
PERROTT PHILLIPS

For a free copy of this fascinating story on Brussels and Bruges, together with one brochure on individual incursions into these historic cities, write or phone —

Chester Close, London SW1X 7BQ, 071-259 6999

ABTA 33374

TRAVEL

Country life in Edwardian good taste

Pleasures of an Exmoor table make a memorable weekend for George Hill

One thing in the world of the country house has not changed since the golden days of the Wodehouse novels. Blundings Castle may have become a conference hotel, the Drones spinning down from Mayfair in their little sports cars may have given way to commodity brokers in Porsches, and the quarters of the departed Empress may have been converted into self-catering apartments. But the question of chefs is just as dramatic as in the days when Aunts and Barons would plumb the depths of human anguish and perfidy in their rivalry to secure the services of the inimitable Anatole and his unforgettable sauces.

Unwary travellers are all too much at risk of arriving at a country house hotel whose cooking has been warmly praised only to have the realization dawn, as their host unfolds the tale of tonight's menu beside the blazing fire, that the chef has moved on. Country hotel owners wake sweating in the middle of the night from the same nightmare that convulsed many an Edwardian chateau: they have succeeded in recruiting a good cook, as cooks go — and that, as good cooks go, theirs has gone.

For ambitious young chefs, a peaceful spot in the countryside is an excellent place to make a name. Once that is achieved, the bright lights can become a great temptation. As they spread their wings, the places where they made their names can be left gravely bereft, for there is all the difference in the world between a hotel where the cooking is adequate, and one where it is worth seeking out.

Periton Park Hotel, on the edge of Exmoor, has a very good cook indeed. I do not want to decry the hotel's many other attractions, still less to imply any weakness in the ties of loyalty that bind Clive Arthur to Christine and Ian Dodd, the hotel's owners, if I say that the menu is Periton Park's greatest strength.

Mr Arthur is an imaginative and eclectic cook. He treats vegetables with tenderness and respect, which is a test of real seriousness. In a spot which is a little way off the beaten track, he has estab-

TRAVEL NOTES

Periton Park Hotel, Minehead, West Somerset TA24 8SW (0843 706885). Half-board with dinner ranges from £52.50 a head per night upwards, with special terms for weekend breaks in winter and spring.



Whitewashed houses and steep streets: even the popular village of Lynmouth, on the edge of Exmoor, is peaceful outside the summer season.

Unfair, iniquitous, outrageous, monstrous, even obscene. These are the words that normally mild-mannered readers of *The Times* employ to air their views on single room supplements.

Why should solo travellers,

who have very often "reached the stage where we sleep better alone and prefer to be alone," wrote one reader who spoke for many, be so severely penalized for declining to share a bedroom with a friend or, heaven forbid, a stranger? Why should they pay more, and get less than couples?

When we published the results of our survey on readers' holiday habits and aspirations, the penial price put on privacy was by far the greatest source of disquiet. We asked you to tell us more.

Examples of discrimination are many. The harshest single room supplement I came across is £104 a night for a

A loud and singular protest

Shona Crawford Poole reports readers' anger over single room supplements

bucked the system successfully. Let Mrs Anna Robinson speak for herself. "In June 1987 I booked the Hotel Splendido in Puerto Soller, Majorca for three weeks. It was the first holiday since my husband's death. My agent particularly asked for a nice single room, overlooking the garden if (as usual) no sea view rooms were available for singles. A nice room with garden view was confirmed at a surcharge of £22 extra per week. I arrived and to my horror was put in (literally) a black, dark room with a window only nine inches from a wall. No view of any kind. No bedside light — only a very

dim naked bulb right up in the ceiling.

"I went down to reception and asked for the manager. He was out. I told the head receptionist 'I cannot spend even one night in that black hole. Apart from the darkness it was quite airless. I spent two nights in reception, sleeping on a sofa. Eventually I was given a good, light, twin-bedded room overlooking the garden. My courier said: 'They always try to get away with letting that room and often succeed.'

"Towards the end of that holiday I searched around for a small hotel near the sea with decent single rooms. I discovered Los Geranios, run by a Dutchman and his German wife, and I have been there ever since. It is a spotless and friendly place. At Geranios they said: 'We think that a very good quota of sea views and balcony rooms should go to singles, as they pay more. This year the single surcharge for a small double room is £8.75 a week, and a balcony is another £8.75, still very reasonable.'

Peter Tyrie, managing director of Balmoral International, and a former manager of Gleneagles Hotel in Scotland and the Mandarin Oriental in Hong Kong, says a good hotelier would never charge a supplement for single occupancy of a double room if he has rooms which would otherwise be empty. "Supplements are simply a rip-off if

singles are using accommodation that would not otherwise be let."

The problem hoteliers face, he explains, is in allocating blocks of rooms in advance to tour operators. The assumption is always that the hotel will be full, so rates are set on costings calculated many months in advance. These rates assume double occupancy and the hotelier or tour operator would suffer a loss if they were let as singles with no extra charge.

"You can always strike a bargain," Mr Tyrie suggests.

● Be prepared to bargain directly with hotels.

● Shop around, and never be shy of asking travel agents to question requests for supplements on your behalf. If the tour operator or hotel's business is slack, they may be prepared to reduce or waive the published charges.

● Note special offers, usually available in the low season.

DISCOVER THE UNSPOILT CHARM OF

BRUGES

THE MEDIEVAL CITY BREAK

Step back in time — on a short break to Bruges. Cobbled streets, winding canals, art galleries, bistros ... this medieval city is a delight.

With Belgian Travel Service you can go any day by air, rail or car. See your ABTA travel agent or ask for our brochure.

Belgian
TRAVEL SERVICE

0920 461131
24 HOURS

Please send a Belgian Travel Service brochure
Name _____
Address _____
Post code _____
Bridge House, Ware, Herts SG12 8QG

WELCOME

DISCOVER FRANCE AT ITS MOST HOSPITABLE ON A CHAMBRE D'HÔTE HOLIDAY.

A P&O Motoraway France Chambre d'Hôte holiday welcomes you right to the heart of everything French.

You'll enjoy bed and breakfast (and in many cases an evening meal) in a real French home. And you'll be welcomed as part of the family — whether it's a château or a simple cottage.

They're dotted all over Normandy, Brittany, the Atlantic Coast and Provence.

You can stay in one or several places and even mix-and-match with other types of accommodation.

We'll arrange everything, including the crossing and en-route stops.

For more details of Chambre d'Hôte, hotel and self-catering holidays, pick up a P&O Motoraway France brochure at your ABTA travel agent. Or telephone us on (0304) 214422.

P&O
European Ferries

TURN EVERY CROSSING INTO A CRUISE

QE2, CONCORDE, WALDORF ASTORIA
DEPART 4 JULY FROM £1,745

Fly to New York on Concorde, spend 3 or 4 nights at the Waldorf Astoria and cruise home for 5 days on the QE2. Depart 3 or 4 July from £1,745. For further details of this exciting holiday call 071-491 3930, write to Cunard at 30A Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5LS or see your travel agent.

QUEEN ELIZABETH 2

CUNARD IS A TRAFALGAR HOLIDAY COMPANY

Special Family Offer on Summer Cruises.

Swan Hellenic is offering up to 58% discount for young people under the age of 26 travelling with a full fare paying adult on three fourteen day cultural cruises:

'The Moors and Spain', departs 27th June. 'Vikings, Normans and Bretons', departs 25th July. 'Atlantic Coast to Mediterranean Shore', departs 8th August.

For further details call 071-831 1515.
77 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1PP.

Cheapest fares nearer home

FARE DEALS

cial fares and permission to book without restrictions.

The availability of savings depends, of course, on market conditions. Consolidators do not get a look-in for flights to Ireland, Holland, Belgium or

many points in Spain and Greece because the existing scheduled fares are so competitive. But as you can see from the chart, consolidators can offer good savings for most other countries.

If you are flying to Austria, Austro Tours sells flights with Austrian Airlines to Klagenfurt for £162, Graz for £169,

Recently, consolidators

have started to make their mark in eastern Europe. Trailfinders is selling Moscow and Leningrad for £259 and brussels for £168. The Swiss consolidator City by City charges £122 to Zurich and £119 for Geneva. Basic Dan Air consolidator Euro Express features that airline's flights to Paris for £89 return.

Besides Lisbon, Air Portugal consolidator Abreu offers Faro and Oporto for £110, and Funchal (Madeira) at £150. Scantours offers flights with Air Europe from London Gatwick for £195 to Stockholm and £165 to Oslo.

Recently, consolidators

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT TO SAVE

Official Fares	Consolidator	Special Fares	Airline	Fare (£)
APEX (£)	PEX (£)			
West Berlin	138/173	193	Stade	various 119
Copenhagen	139	192	Scantours	Air Europe 150
Frankfurt	96	142	Stade	various 75
Istanbul	-	277	Scantours	Swissair 119
Lisbon	-	119/208	Stade	Turkish Airways 140
Madrid	-	139/149	Abreu	Air Portugal 110
Moscow	270	448	Trailfinders	Dan Air 129
Nice	135	189	Euro Express	various 250
Rome	79	89	Euro Express	Dan Air 145
Vienne	188/219	250/300	Nouvelles Frontières	Air Europe 70
	192	239	Pilgrim Air	BA/Alitalia 189
			Austro	Austrian Airlines 145

Air departures from London. All prices refer to flights in May/June and are subject to change. Fares to some destinations are liable to seasonal increases from July onwards.

For further details call 071-831 1515.

77 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1PP.

All departures from London. All prices refer to flights in May/June and are subject to change. Fares to some destinations are liable to seasonal increases from July onwards.

TRAVEL NEWS

Pole vault

Berlin for £79 and Warsaw for £99 are the fares on Coach Europe's weekly service to Poland, beginning on June 8. Coach Europe is an International Leisure Group company. Reservations: 0533 510110. Expect to pay about £30 more for a return air fare to Berlin.

Call to arms

An action replay of the battle of Waterloo is being staged on the site of Wellington's victory. On June 17, the eve of the 175th anniversary, the Napoleonic Society and an international cast of 2,000 will re-enact the struggle. Belgian Travel Service (0920 467345) is running a Waterloo Weekend. Return coach travel from London and three night's half-board in Brussels: £199.

At your service

All car ferry and hovercraft services between Dover and Calais are listed on a map of Europe, available free from more than 6,500 members of the Association of British Travel Agents. Or send a large sase (with 30p first class or 24p second class stamp) to Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie de Calais, G.L. Treble Associates, 19 Hampstead Lane, London N6 4BR.

Pampered pets

Doting owners can put their pets up for membership of the Featherbed Country Club for Dogs. Provided that the animal passes the £28.75 "vetting procedure" it can occupy its own luxuriously furnished quarters and eat its usual food at the customary times for £125 a week. Details: PO Box 67, High Wycombe, Bucks HP15 6XQ. (0494 711649).

Swanning off

An age limit of 25 is set by Swan Hellenic on its young travellers' discounts of up to 50 per cent on three cruises this summer. Each young person must be accompanied by at least one full-fare paying passenger. The three cruises are the Moors of Spain departing June 27, Vikings, Normans and Bretons (July 25) and Atlantic coast to Mediterranean Shore (August). Full adult fares start at £1,155 and include flights, accommodation, meals, excursions, entrance fees and portage (071 831 1515).

Shona Crawford Poole

٥٦٣

العمل من

TRAVEL

Playing devil's advocate in Bruges

PHOTOGRAPHS BY BRUNO BARBEY / VICTOR ENGLEBEN

Michael Watkins
lifts the covers on
the city they call
the 'Venice of the
north' and finds
a few surprises



Le't's be beastly about Bruges. No one else is. You never hear "What a dump!" as you might of Brazzaville or Bremen. All you hear are glucose effusions that Bruges is the "Venice of the north", or faint distillations from the 19th century poet Dryden that it is "the most medieval town in Europe". So let us propose objections to canonization; let us play devil's advocate.

Is Bruges, in fact, a bona fide Flemish city? For 200 years it was the most prosperous mercantile centre in western Europe, linking the Baltic and Mediterranean seas. Riches piled high on its docks. If an expression of wealth was required, it was a further requirement that this expression should be in the best possible taste.

But the counts of Flanders and their merchant princes (middlemen or wholesalers on the up and up) were left-footed among the aesthetes and ill-equipped to distinguish a spandrel from a misericord. "Help," they cried. And paid help is what they got: architects, artists and artisans were imported to furnish and decorate on their behalf.

Neither is "medieval" a scrupulously honest word, for Bruges did not explode, all of a piece; it evolved pragmatically, its progress regulated by fortunes of the state.

Burgelins subscribes to nine castles of architecture: the Romanesque is represented by the Basilica, the Town Hall is Gothic, the Old Recorder's House Renaissance, the Provost's House belongs to the baroque, the Law Courts to the classical. The neo-Gothic facade of the prison was a gift of the 1930s, while the Holiday Inn promises to unveil its tomato ketchup countenance in 1991.

Further questions of integrity arise by tautus concerning deception, by things not being what they purport to be.

The charming little bunch-back bridge, the Bonifaciusbrugje, between the Church of Our Lady and the Arentshuis Garden, has a corner-stone dated 1634, although the bridge is but a recent addition of 1910.

Most of the wooden facades are fake (though not the one in Kortewinkel); the originals having been dismantled in the 17th and 18th centuries as potential fire hazards. The ridiculous Gregorian chants you hear in the Basilica of the Holy Blood are indeed Gregorian chants, but taped.

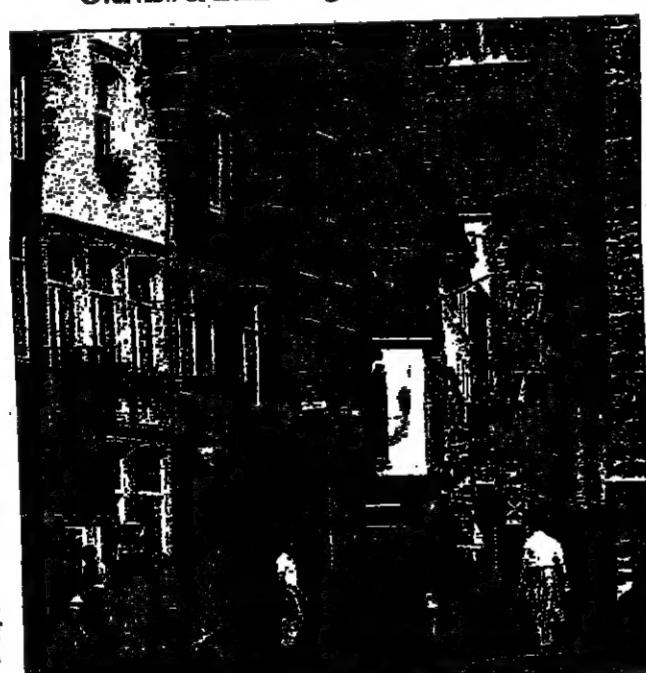
The ultimate in counterfactual is that, although Bruges was conceived as a celebration, Bruggelings themselves were neither born nor reared as celebrants. Reliable, certainly; worthy, indubitably; fun-loving, never.

While trusting every one of them with my life, I would choose to get drunk with none. The men wear solemn socks and have a natural resistance to exuberance.

Twice I put this theory to the test: once sitting on a bench in Burgplein, then squatting on a wall in the



Overview of tourist Bruges: "... but by 11pm the streets were void; not a pickpocket in sight. No lingering lovers either. Indoors, my mind's eye glimpsed Bruggelings, usurers all, counting loose change"



Medieval-style banners define the shops' offerings

TRAVEL NOTES

• Michael Watkins's arrangements were made by Intravel, The Old Station, Helmsley, Yorkshire YO6 5ZT (0439 71111). He travelled with a car by P&O European Ferries from Folkstone to Zeebrugge; two-birth cabin, two nights' bed and breakfast at the Hotel Bryghus £224 for two.

• Two can dine at family restaurants such as 't Kapoenje, St Salvatorstraat 6, and Ghislainhof, West-Ghislainhof 23, for £45, including house wine. If you take a car, park it or find a garage at the first opportunity, for it will be a liability.

Brugelins. Usually when I do this something happens: Sophia Loren or Cher joins me, perhaps an anarchist places a fizzing time-bomb beside me. In Bruges I just sat.

Passing Bruggelings were orderly, watching the grass grow with cautious interest. Children did not pick flowers or burst bubblegum; dogs refrained from fouling the neat cobbles. There was an air of such sweet reasonableness that I knew, unless I moved, I would be found on the same

spot in 5,000 years time, perched in marzipan.

I realize that statues are not designed to be entertaining; their subjects would derive scant satisfaction by gazing fatuously into perpetuity.

Thus does Hans Memling

glow, and Guido Gezelis

look as if he has swallowed

something nasty; even Papageno, who, after all, had much to be pleased about, seems in self-absorption.

Eventually I took an inventory of my likes and dislikes. Profit included the sturdy 12th century columns in St Basil's Chapel (but not

in the debit column. I entered several panes of horrid stained glass in the Basilica, as well as the showy pulpit representing the terrestrial globe; low-flying mallard; parsimony that demands entrance fees to most treasures in the Gobelin tapestries and

fitted overcoats, traffic wardens, lace in any shape or form.

There is a building that

resolutely declines to be cate-

gorized: Jerusalem Church.

You have to ring a bell for a

caretaker to admit you.

Measuring 13 paces by 11, it is

more like a private chapel, not

at all grand; except of course

for the long aristocratic noses

in effigy of the founding

family, the Adornes. It is

possessed of serenity; if you do

not understand me, save yourself the hike to get there.

I think I'm done. How are you voting on the canoniza-

tion referendum: yes or no?

It is a serious place, Bruges,

requiring serious considera-

tion. Wasn't it Chesterton

who said, "... solemnity

flows out of man naturally;

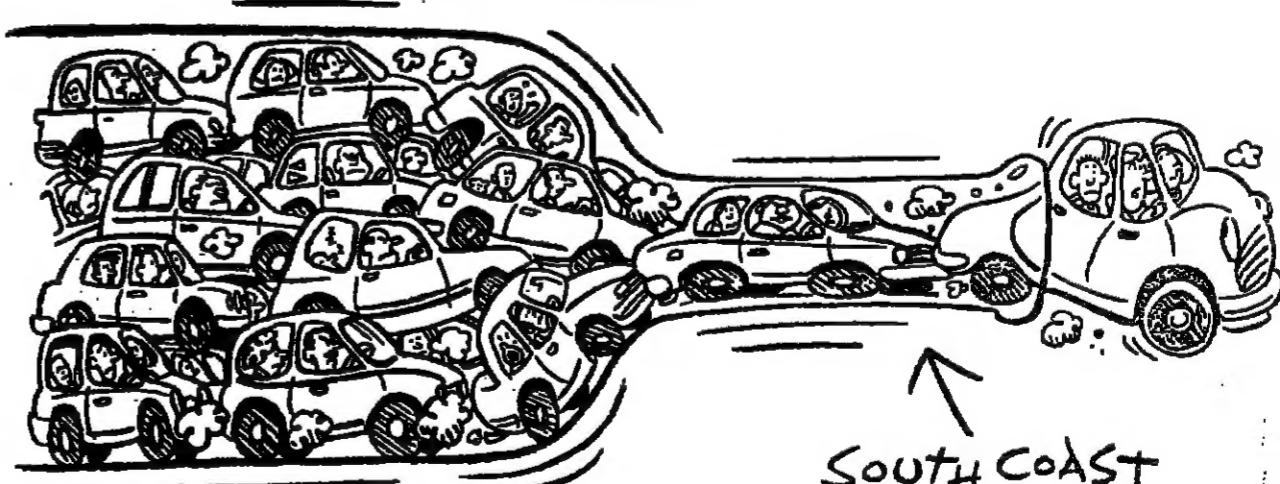
but laughter is a leap. It is easy

to be heavy; hard to be light.

Satan fell by the force of

gravity?"

Going through Hull saves you going through hell.



SAIL NORTH SEA FERRIES AND AVOID THE BOTTLENECKS

So why drive south?

You're far closer to Hull and North Sea Ferries than you are to the south coast.

So after an easy drive, you can enjoy:

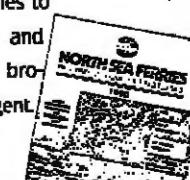
- A five course dinner and breakfast on board, included in the price of your ticket.
- Excellent accommodation ranging from reclining seats to cabins with en suite facilities.
- Spacious lounge bars.
- Cinema.
- Children's playroom.
- Disco.
- Casino.
- Live entertainment.
- Duty free shops.
- A restful night.
- An early start next morning.

HULL - ZEEBRUGGE



to Hull and sailing North Sea Ferries to the Continent can be, complete and return the coupon for your free brochure, or see your local Travel Agent.

PHONE TODAY
24 HRS 0482 707770



I don't want to drive south.
Please send me your free brochure.

Name _____
Address _____
Postcode _____

Post to: North Sea Ferries, King George Dock, Hull HU9 5OA Tel: Reservations (0482) 707770

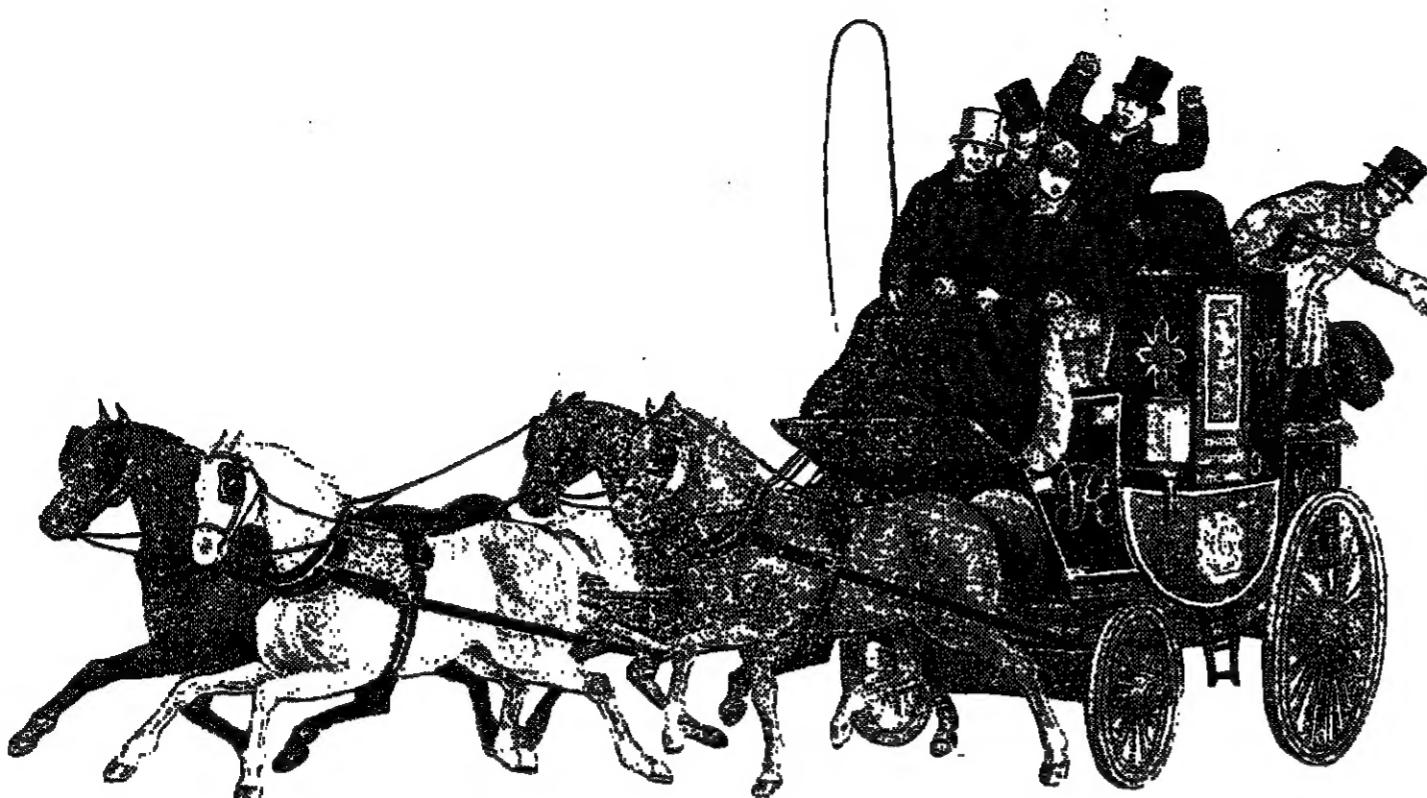
FREE

NORTH SEA FERRIES
1965-1990 • 25 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE





First in the World.



Since 1840, the Penny Black has stood as the proud symbol for all that is good in a postal service.

Before then, you couldn't send a letter to every address in the country at the same price regardless of distance.

Today, however, we take that service for granted.

And Sir Rowland Hill's invention - the pre-paid adhesive label - has been adopted by every nation on earth.

Would Sir Rowland have approved of our progress over the years?

Today, he'd see a UK postal system handling record numbers of letters - more in one busy day than in the whole of 1840.

He'd see a stamp that's fallen in cost by 75% since 1840 (when wage changes are

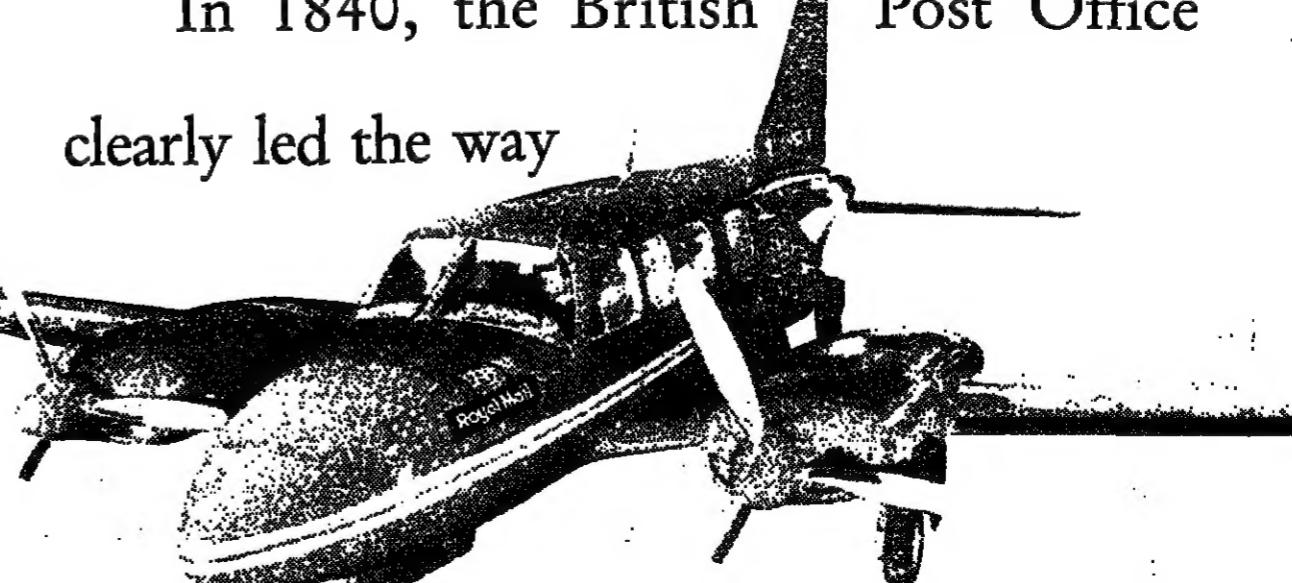
taken into account). The first class stamp is one of the cheapest in Europe.

He'd see a vast network of some 20,000 post offices around the country (more per head of population than almost anywhere in Europe).

He'd see the British Post Office virtually alone in the world to be self-financing and profitable.

And he'd see technology put to such good use that other postal administrations clamour to copy it and buy it.

In 1840, the British Post Office clearly led the way



forward for the rest of the world.

Today, 150 years later, that's still true.

ROYAL
MAIL
1840-1990



FIRST
IN THE
WORLD

The Post Office